

TWO LETTERS.

LET. IV. Being THOUGHTS on the MEANS

OF AUGMENTING THE

Number of Mariners

In these KINGDOMS, upon Principles of LIBERTY.

LET. V. To ROBERT DINGLEY, Esq;

CONTAINING

Moral and Political REASONS

FOR RELIEVING

PROSTITUTES who are inclined to forsake their evil Course
of Life.

By Mr. HANWAY.

L O N D O N:

Printed in the Year M.DCC.LVIII.



L E T T E R I V .
T O T H E
S I N C E R E F R I E N D
O F
Liberty and Seamen ;
B E I N G A F E W
F I R S T T H O U G H T S
In Relation to the Means of
Augmenting the Number of MARINERS
In the DOMINIONS belonging to the
CROWN OF GREAT-BRITAIN.

By M r . H A N W A Y .

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LETTER IV.

TO THE
SINCERE FRIEND
OF
LIBERTY AND SEAMEN.

THE following thoughts arose, for the most part, in the pursuit of the business of the Marine Society; and, as the subject of them is interesting, therefore it deserves the more candor. As it is connected, in some measure, with that society,

I purpose to collect in *notes*, every thing material that was said, the beginning of last year, that those who did not then enter into the merits of this un-

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dertaking may, at the same time, that they examine the greater national object, see upon what principles this Society has been supported.

PERHAPS from this humble essay, which every day discovers itself to be capable of great improvements, those who are vested with authority may, in some calmer hour than the present time affords, hit upon the happy means of delivering the nation from the distresses of *pressing*, whether at the commencement of a war, or upon any other sudden emergency (a).

First, The advantages of clean and proper clothing,

Such as is suited to the season, the climate, and the duties of a sea life, should be diligently attended to: it strikes every man as a most proper encouragement to mariners. If one considers that the solicitude of the *rich* is chiefly employed about *delicate* food and raiment, what have the *poor* to do more than to provide the *necessaries* of life? The seaman who is happily put in a right method of having a sufficient supply of proper clothes (b), is
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(a) It ought ever to be remembered by all *true sons of liberty*, that nothing *sullies* the native *lustre*, and *stains* the *purity* of the constitution of this country, so much as the custom of *impressing* men; if we mean to act with any consistency with ourselves, if we love liberty in our own persons; if we *feel* the calamities of others, let us *grasp* every occasion, and esteem every *mite* which is thrown in towards superseding this *necessity*, as a *treasure* of the greatest value.

(b) Many of the men when they first go on board, are in no proper garb to be *confined* in a *tender*: and some are half naked, and in no condition to stand the inclemency of weather upon the water; yet in this situation they must remain for a considerable time, unless a *charitable* hand is stretched forth, to lend such relief as may save them from *perishing*, as many have done, in past times. This will not only render them *really* useful to the *public*, but also tend to preserve the *volunteers*, with whom they are occasionally intermixed, either in the *tenders* which convey them from one port to another, or in their ships.

Clean

not in real want of any thing for *himself*; food is provided for him, without any care of his own.

With respect to the choice of men in the sea-service,

It is doubtless of the utmost moment, to the great ends for which ships of war are fitted out to get stout men; and yet we are often obliged to take such as are but a remove from the dregs of mankind (d). The truth

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is,

Clean clothes are generally attended with *cleanliness* in person; and he who will have the respect for his own person as to wash himself when he has a *clean* vestment to put on, will not take that pains when he has only a *dirty one*. To such men as these a *small* assistance is of the greatest moment; it will render their situation *supportable*; it will make them *wish to live*, and willing to *die* in a service where they are treated with humanity.

This is for a particular *species* of *forces*, for which no clothing is supplied as to *soldiers* and *Marines*: or in another light it has this *peculiar* advantage, that without any expence at setting out, these Landmen appear at once as *Seamen*, the duty of which they profess to learn. Whatever the hardships of soldiers may be in *laborious marches*, by inclement seasons, and in noxious climes, they are hardly ever confined in great numbers, in a small space, so as to hurt each others health. By a part of martial discipline they are obliged to be, not only *clean*, but elegantly so. But Seamen are often circumscribed in very narrow bounds, with wet garments, so that the change of their apparel, and the cleanliness of their persons, become the more essential to the preservation of their *lives*, which often depends on it. — If the *Captains* will order their men into *classes*, under the inspection of their Officers, *each* his *class*, with strict orders that every man be *clean* and *tight*, and their *filthiness* and *rags*, punished as *criminal*, epidemical distempers will hardly ever molest them, and nothing but *lead* or *iron* will make any impression on our brave Seamen. Nor is it to be doubted but we shall take better care of them after *this* war is over, than we did at the close of the *last*, and *convince* them, in spite of all their *prejudices* and *bad habits*, not only that we *really mean* to *preserve* them, but that we *love* and *respect* them as we ought.

(d) To carry on the war with *vigor*, requires a *great number* of *healthy men*. To find *Seamen* sufficient, though a considerable part of our trade should be supplied with *foreigners*, is a hard task: but we find *Landmen*, yet in the *docile* part of life, brisk, active, and robust, who can well supply their

is, the race of men in this country are degenerated, and it requires the use of *ale*, our native liquor, for half a century at least, to restore them. This is

their place; and nothing can be so well calculated as *this design*, so far as it extends, to prevent the stagnation of *trade*, and the destructive effects of *war*, at one and the same time; especially if such *Landmen* are immediately clothed as *Seamen*, divided among the *messes* of seamen, and put under the peculiar care of some inferior Officer. It is thus they will be encouraged and soon taught the *language* and *duty* of *seamen*.

It is natural for a sea officer to wish, that his ship should be completely mann'd with the most *accomplished Seamen*, if they are stout men: but when he considers the service at large, and the good of the public, he will be equally satisfied with a proportion of landmen. The *impossibility* of setting forth such large fleets as His Majesty's occasions may call for, without a *proportionable mixture* of landmen is most apparent.

I find that in the beginning of the spring, 1743, orders were given to the commanding officers, and by them to the captains in these terms: "You are hereby *strictly required and directed*, to endeavour all that is possible, to procure a reasonable number of landmen, who are of able bodies and fit for service, and that they may be lodged promiscuously with the seamen, and encouraged according to their diligence and inclinations, to learn seamanship."

It has been a complaint, that we want people to carry on war. If this is in any degree true, there is an additional reason derived from it, to make a *proper choice* of men, that by their *Strength, Agility, and Fire*, they may supply the want of numbers. But our power of *choosing* men depends on the *encouragement* those meet, out of whom we are to *choose*.

In our ships of war a certain number of men is wanted, and no more, and these, as is obvious, cannot be recruited without weakening another ship, till the ships come into Port. How fatal may be the consequence of neglecting to make a *proper choice of men*! May we not become our own executioners; and plunge a dagger into the breast of our common parent? If there is not a *proper choice*, we shall destroy that distinction on which our truest hopes of *superiority* is founded. We may as well *women* our ships, instead of *manning* them, if we send on board them a puny crew of mortals; besides, these create the same expence in *raising*; have the same wages; occupy the same *space*; consume the same quantity of provisions, and are more apt than others to breed epidemical diseases.

is carried so far, that some officers contest, if stout landmen, who have once found their legs, and are free from sea-sickness, are not in a certain

If for the *parade*, or even the common *drudgery* of life, we choose a *stout man*, how much more to discharge the *important* duties of the *day of battle*! Behold the *hardy mariner*, bleeding with glorious wounds, still maintaining his charge! See the *puny creature*, however well disposed, fainting when his *finger* bleeds! But supposing he has never so much *fire* and *spirit*, he can have no weight in the *expeditious movements* of a thirty-two pounder, on which the *event* of the day may depend.

Men of *education*, *honor* and *sentiment*, may be near the same in most *European* countries; though I hope *our officers* will soon convince the world, that they are not less intrepid, and have more *skill* than the *French*. But if we consider our *common men*; are not our *best*, our *truest* hopes, founded on their being *hardy* and *robust*? When *properly chosen*, are they not animated with a *superior strength*, *activity* and *fire*, to the *French common men*? Nor is it only in their *fighting*, but also in their *working* a ship: what VOLTAIRE calls *le scavant manœuvre des matelots anglais*, still depends on a choice of men.

The King now gives a *Bounty* of *three pounds* to *Seamen*, and *thirty shillings* to *Landmen*: more can hardly be given the *former*, to produce its proper effect; nor yet to the *latter*, to support the distinction which there must be, between *Seamen* and *Landmen*. If we consider the importance of having a choice of men, some *additional encouragement* should be added to the *30 s. bounty* *early*, and in *good time*; and what can this so properly be, as a *change* of *raiment*?

Experience already proves the efficacy of such a *new kind* of *Bounty* to *engage* men to come into the *Service*, and to *preserve* their lives when they are come in. Private benevolence, bestowed as a mark of *good will* or esteem, has some flattering properties which a public bounty has not; and men are naturally *pleased* with it. But when they receive both *one* and the *other*, each engages their *attention* the more; and they will find themselves the more strongly tempted to *enter freely* and in *greater numbers*.

Of what vast consequence, *good* and *sufficient* clothing is to *Seamen*, every *humane*, every *experienced* Officer will testify with *uplifted* hands! I dare say that many a life might have been saved, had *this Society* been established two years ago, supposing that *numbers* who *could* not provide themselves, might have been supplied before they went on board ship; and that *numbers* who were *negligent* of themselves, when they might have taken up clothing, on account of their wages, would then have had other people to *think* and *provide* for them.

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tain proportion in each ship, even better than puny seamen, especially if the last are much worn by a sea-life, or by their own debaucheries.

A good plan for manning the Royal Navy,

At the first breaking out of a war, and to make the first efforts with vigor, by equipping a great number of ships, is confessedly one of the most arduous tasks to contrive. Indeed it is morally impossible if this nation, in time of peace, employs only 70,000 seamen in trade and ships of war, that it can furnish immediately 60,000 for war only. Experience proves that a great number of *landmen* must be incorporated with the seamen, and accordingly we find that directions are always given for this purpose.

It has been ever thought a great national object, to find out by what means to employ, in time of peace, the seamen who are made during a war. In the discussion of this point politicians, in the depth of their researches, are apt to forget that, in the course of twenty years, more than three quarters

With respect to the distinction of *Seamen* and *Landmen*, the utility of clothing is set in a very fair point of view, by the extract of a letter which I have lately received from one of the Captains in His Majesty's navy. He says, "The latter end of last war I entered a great number of *landmen*, but I found great difficulty to get the *Seamen* to mix with them, while they wore their *Land clothing*; I therefore desired every *landman* to trust me with 30*s.* of the first *prize money* he should be entitled to, which happened to be paid soon after, and I employed my tailors to make them such clothing as our best seamen were most pleased with. The distinction between *Seamen* and *Landmen* immediately ceased; and those very *Landmen* became *Seamen* in one third of the time they would otherwise have done." This is the candid account of a very honest man, a brave and experienced officer, and a zealous subject.

Letter from a Member of the Marine Society.

quarters of the supernumeries, who are not employed in commerce nor ships of war, are not only gone out of this land, but out of the land of the living. I have said *twenty* years, but if we compute the time from the last to the present war, one would imagine that ten years made great havoc. And it is certain, that the debaucheries of *some* of them on shore, destroy them as fast as their fatigues at sea.

Too much caution can hardly be used in the manner of discharging a great number of seamen at the close of a war, as well as in keeping a proper number of them in pay: this is obvious enough at present. But I apprehend there are not so many of them go into *foreign* service as is generally imagined. The *Hollanders* pay near as much wages as we do, but our men who go into their service are generally sent to the East, where the heat of the climate, and the severity of discipline, brings them to a speedy end. The *Portuguese* and *Spaniards* also pay well, but the latter do not employ a great number, nor will the difference in religion, manners, and customs of these nations, admit of our men being easily reconciled to them. Add to this, the food neither of the *Dutch*, *Portuguese*, nor *Spaniards*, is not so grateful to our men as our own, nor can they live so jovially as they like. As to other nations, neither the pay nor food is comparable to our own: we must therefore conclude, that great numbers of seamen, upon the close of a war, go into His Majesty's *American* Dominions.

It does not follow from what I have said, but that many are prompted either by a roving disposition, or a disinclination to laborious employments, to leave their country. The prevention of this evil is highly deserving attention. I apprehend it depends in a great measure on the *just* and *proper*, of the *harsh* and *improper* treatment they meet with on board our ships of war, both with regard to *private*, as well as the *public* conduct. It is
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not easy to conceive how much the welfare of the men depends on the care of *commanders*, as to cleanliness, occasional regulations of food, sleeping in dry clothing, and such like, all which the men themselves seldom think of.

Seamen are generally more capricious

Than most other men, but it seems to be a capital offence against reason to lay it down as a principle, that any set of men are lost to *reason* and a sense of virtue : on the contrary, we ought to think, that if our seamen, without their having any extraordinary degree of piety, or good sense, were to receive their *wages* in a *just* and *proper* manner, and enjoy a little more *liberty*, it would reconcile them to the King's service, the reputation of which would rise every day. If we are successful in the means of increasing our numbers of mariners, there will not be such a temptation to them to fly from the King's ships in time of war, on account of the exorbitant wages the merchants give on such occasions.

To endeavor to bring about this happy event, we are to try expedients to engage seamen, in greater numbers than are now found, to earn their bread on shore, when there is not employment for them on the water. This will prevent foreigners, who now make such great strides upon us, from using our own weapons to fight with us in the fields of commerce.

Without pretending to the gift of prophecy, I humbly conceive that this will prove at last the most simple, and the most practicable method of commanding a great number of mariners, when the exigence of the State may require them. And unless we are watchful, and possess the *means* of defence in *ships*, and in *men* to *fight* *them*, we shall one day be taken at a disadvantage, and discover too late the sad effects of the neglect

lect of this policy. As islanders and merchants we should learn to be of the amphibious kind, and, by introducing sobriety, lengthen the lives of seamen: by this means, *three* of them may become equal to *four*, in point of service. It was this rule of conduct which laid the foundation of the great strength of the *Dutch*. And contemptible as some think that republic, this method still enables them, were they not fascinated, to prepare considerable fleets in a short time.

THERE are too many, who imagine that the intrepid spirit which distinguishes our seamen, arises from a total inaptitude to think of God or devil; and who infer from thence, that we are in a right train; because, say they, "*Seamen* should be of that temper." They forget that an able seaman has 13 *l.* 10 *s.* a year, besides the chance of advantages in war; when a ploughman has but 3 *l.* or 4 *l.* and labors excessive hard through the whole year; whereas the seaman in port, or in fine weather voyages, may be as happy as the day is long: and to suppose that he would not follow the employment because it is profitable, or because he may have acquired some property, is contrary to the common principles by which human life is governed. Ought we not rather to ascribe the intrepidity of our seamen, to their being islanders, and living by trade and war? to that kind of enterprising spirit which seems to be inseparable from commerce, under a limited monarchical government? Does not their spirit partly arise from their strength of body, and that from climate, nourishing food, and an early habit of activity? May we not also add their love of liberty, and the enjoyment of it, and their being used to triumph over their enemies? And if there is a Providence that governs the world, there must be also some secret causes not level to human comprehensions, why things and men *are* what they *are*.

If the superiority of our men arises from swearing or drinking,

More than other nations ; or from spending their money more like *asses*, it necessarily follows, that one of the most essential parts of our system of politics, is founded upon rank *folly* and *iniquity*. And if irreligious principles and practices have, through all the records of time, been the *apparent* causes of the ruin of states, if our folly and impiety is indulged, ought we to flatter ourselves that our nation will not be ruined, in the issue, by the same means ? — If, under a notion of policy, we countenance the pernicious practices which custom has rendered familiar, in fact we *destroy* our seamen. We already estimate their lives at *seven* years; shall we bring them to a shorter period, instead of encreasing them to a much longer date ? In the mean while we tacitly establish a doctrine not less pernicious in *low life* than in *high*, that *private vices* are *public benefits* ; and, consequently, that *private virtues* are *public injuries*; and hence we may also conclude, that the more foolish and wicked we are, the happier we shall be, and the more the state will flourish.

Sobriety will induce seamen to live on shore,

As well as on the water, and naturally improve their *social* affections : they will be more attentive to the care of their wives and children : they will naturally lead their offspring into a sea-life, when there is employment for them ; and this circumstance also will have its secret influence in facilitating the manning of great fleets. We shall be more generally familiarized to the sea, and become yet more capable to bear the fatigues of it.

To effect this, 2 or 3000 seamen at least, such as are desirous of it, might be discharged annually out of the King's ships, in time of peace, to
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give place to landmen ; these being young and well chosen, not too many of them in a ship at a time, and well taken care of, till they find sea-stomachs, and sea-legs, they will soon be taught seamanship : by this means there will be an encrease of the number of those who go under the peculiar distinction of *men of wars men*, who are generally of most value in ships of war.

THUS whilst trade is breeding up seamen to fight our battles, the King's ships will breed up *mariners* for the support of *commerce*. The navy will become a *nursery* of seamen, in time of *peace* as well as *war* ; and we may hope to see a happy end of our sufferings in regard to *pressing*.

Merchant-ships ought also to be better mann'd

Than they generally are. If the merchant gained a little less, the State would acquire the greater Strength ; and, there seems to be more danger from a want of due regard to the *public*, in a *direct view*, than from any inconvenience the individual may suffer, which may affect the community in *remoter* consequences. If the price of wages *decreased* in proportion to the *increase* of the number of seamen, the merchant might navigate his ship with a hand or two extraordinary, in every ten, at the same price he does now. There is the stronger reason for this, if we examine what number of seamen we can employ. Let us suppose 8000 merchant-ships belonging to *England* in time of peace, 500 to *Scotland*, and 200 to *Ireland*, these computed at 700,000 tons, will bring them to 80 $\frac{1}{2}$ tons each.

If we give them 5 *men* and 1 *boy*, exclusive of the master and mate, the number will be 52,200 men and boys (a). If we were to retain 20,000 seamen in the royal navy, this would make 72,200, which is 30,800 short of the 103,000 it is said the *French* had registered before the war.

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(a) Very few computations make them above 40,000 men ; adding to these 10,000 lads and boys, and calculating 10,000 men in the navy, this is 10,000 short of the general computation in page 6.

The event seems to prove, that a great part of these 103,000 were *barge* and *boatmen*; at the same time, it is very plain that they neglect no kind of policy to augment the number of their seamen: we even find that they navigate a ship of 150, to 200 tons, with 20 to 25 hands; whereas a ship of the same burthen with us, has but 10 to 14, exclusive of the master and mate.

Now, in order to enter into competition with them, supposing the contest, as it now stands, to be no trivial concern, it is not enough to keep *a-head* of them; our trade must increase twofold, as theirs increases; or *we* must have some additional hands; or the consequence will be, that, by the policy they observe, they will in a few years exceed us greatly in numbers. If we think of *riches only*, and look no farther than our nose, it is probable we shall one day stumble upon our ruin.

THESE are no romantic speculations. We see how *power* changes from one nation to another. *We* have not been idle; but *France* has made prodigious advances; and, as if it were intended as a chastisement for our sins, it seems as if peace would never long subsist, without the humiliation of one side or the other; therefore let us look to ourselves.

The notion of giving seamen a kind of half-pay,

During their abode on shore, has been sometimes treated with derision; but it may prove at last the wisest measure the government can pursue. This would turn the tables upon those zealous advocates for liberty, who imagine a register would enslave our seamen. Some kinds of registers might have this effect; but this would be honorable and profitable; it would be coveted by them, and advantageous to the state.

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LET us suppose the war at an end, and that there are 35,000 seamen to be discharged, besides marines; what number of these can the merchants service receive? It will be some time before it will be able to accommodate above 15 or 20,000, if every foreigner now in that service should be discharged out of their ships. What is to be done with the remaining 20,000? After they have been on shore a month or two, let them receive ten shillings a month, or two shillings and sixpence a week, with condition that they remain on shore for eighteen months, or two years; and then, in order to exercise themselves in seamanship, let them be at their liberty to go where they please in the merchants service, not making a shorter voyage than to *Lisbon*. When they return, and apply for the renewal of half-pay, under the circumstances already mentioned, let it be given them: they will then remain agreeable to the plan proposed, till their 18 months, or two years, come about again. But, under this situation, the going into foreign service, at any time, should be deemed a great offence. If a plan of this sort were digested, what could the State suffer by paying 100,000 *l.* per annum? The tax upon the consumption of these men, and the *value of their labor* would repay the charge doubly; the disburse of the government would revert threefold, setting the value of a man's labor at 15 *l.* only; and such men would soon acquire a habit of labor.

When once they were assured of a comfortable assistance, whilst they lived on shore, their very fondness of variety would engage many to the experiment; and so many as did thus remain would be the *additional increase*; for it must be observed, that trade and the King's ships will, in the mean while, be fully supplied. And in order that this *half-pay* might not be abused, in future times, nor given to any but *real sailors*, the receipt of it should disqualify for voting in the election of *commons*.

THE regulating the payment, and preventing abuses, with respect to the half-pay proposed, will create some difficulties at first; but I am willing to think that experience, joined to a close attention, will at length teach us a method of conducting this matter with propriety. There is nothing but what is subject to some abuses: to give sentence before we have tried a cause, is unworthy of us; and to condemn this design as visionary, with regard to its use and effects, will be *absurd*; since nothing can be more probable, than that the generality of seamen, who have nothing allowed them towards their support on shore, will not rest satisfied there, but will go to sea, and prevent other men's being bred up mariners, or will run the risk of being lost to their country by going into foreign service, when they cannot find employment in our own; yet having a certain allowance made them, will be contented to live agreeably to the intention of the regulation proposed.

WITH respect to the method of ascertaining the identity of person, the form of a certificate might be given the seaman properly attested by the captain and his officers, and the mayor of the town where the ship is paid off, the man himself subscribing thereto; and this certificate must mention the age, stature, and full description of the man, which may be reputed, as an authentic document on which to insert or indorse the quarterly payments of his half-pay during the course of the eighteen months, or two years, which he might be permitted to live on shore. This certificate should also mention the *county* and *town*, at or near which, the man proposes to live; and an *authentic register* of all certificates so signed, may be transmitted to the commissioners appointed to conduct this affair, in order to their making an *alphabetical register* for each distinct county where these half-pay seamen may reside.

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ANY man who should personate another who is actually dead, or gone to sea before his proper time, will be subject to be condemned for theft; and the man who goes to sea before his proper time, should lose all title to any half-pay afterwards. Nor could the former happen often; for, besides the producing the *certificate* at the board where the payment should be made, a printed form of a receipt, attested by a justice of the peace, before whom the man should appear, must be produced, to qualify any one to receive the quarterly payment. And if the man was really become an inhabitant of any sea-port or inland town, or village, a fraud of this sort could not be easily committed.

AFTER the expiration of the time limited for his residence on shore, and the man shall have performed his voyage, and does not chuse to continue at sea, (for I am supposing he is at his liberty to continue or not) he must have a fresh certificate from the master of the merchant-ship, attested by his mate, a mayor, or one or two justices of the peace, or, in default thereof, of a *notary*, in order to ascertain the identity of person, that such man may begin a *new account*; and an account of such certificate must be sent to the commissioner. Receipts must be given in the manner as already mentioned.

THIS affair will be *complex*, but not therefore impracticable, neither on the part of the man, nor the public. Perhaps some methods may be contrived to render it more simple; for instance, the producing a certain certificate to be formed for the purpose, attested in a proper and authentic manner, that any seaman, who has served the King for a year or more, and has lived eighteen months on shore without being absent from the place of his residence, at any time, above fifteen days, shall be entitled to 8 or 9 *l*. This method will never be equal to the making quarterly payments, except by avoiding

voiding the charge which such quarterly payments may create. To obviate this difficulty, as few *fees* as possible should be taken. Perhaps it may be practicable for the collectors of some of the revenues of the public, to make these quarterly payments, for the receipt of which the man himself might the more easily appear in any parts distant from *London*. Not but I think the *quarterly receipts* would easily find their way to *London*, if the office for the payment of them were open.

It is beyond all doubt, that this *half-pay* will be a strong inducement to seamen to live on shore on several occasions, and afford room to carry into execution the design proposed. And it is equally probable, if they do live on shore, that they will benefit the public much more by their labor, than the value of their half-pay, which is given them in aid of their support, will amount to. The state will be in every shape benefitted, and our natural strength will increase by a method equally productive of the safety of the public, and the welfare of individuals.

AFTER all, if it should be found impracticable to provide an effectual encouragement to promote so wise a purpose, the method proposed, of discharging a certain number of seamen annually out of the King's ships, and taking landmen in their room, must still be productive of a great *increase*. In the mean while, if we support our trade and commercial navigation, which is the true source of naval power, we shall be enabled to make considerable augmentation of our maritime force.

As to the general run of common *seamen*, it is confessed, as the case now stands, they are like *common whores*, never satisfied, ever changing their quarters, and thinking but little *to-day*, how they shall be supported *to-morrow*; but as the last are not treated by us with that commiseration their
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circumstances demand, neither have we yet been able to put our seamen in a right path, and to introduce sober customs among them, such as sound policy requires. It is to very little purpose to complain that things are as they are, unless we try remedies for their cure ; and remedies for some diseases in the *body politic*, like many in the *natural body*, are hardly to be found without trial, though the experiment should be attended with some inconvenience.

The breeding up of marines, as seamen,

Is another remedy. Many a gallant fellow makes shoes in the morning, and acts the soldier in the afternoon. Thus we might, upon the principles proposed, keep a number of *marines*, even in time of peace, and fewer marching regiments. A man who has learnt the duty of a seaman may not therefore be the worse soldier, nor will he *march* the worse ; it may rather give him powers which the mere soldier is not acquainted with. And for as much as the soldier is supposed to be *less* necessary, or may be *sooner* taught his duty than the seaman, we may get recruits for the army, upon an emergency, without distressing ourselves, and send the *marine soldier* to sea. A man who has been in action in a ship, is supposed to be more intrepid than he that has been in no action at all, and is better qualified to make descents on a coast, than a mere soldier, granting the latter all the merit of his occupation. — But, in order to encourage the *marine* to complete himself as a *seaman*, those who can pass a proper examination might receive a gratuity.

Besides the adding of a band or two additional

To the common crews of merchant-ships, of 10 or 12 men, as already mentioned, the masters of these ships might also be *obliged* to take a fresh *landman*, every *twelve* or *eighteen months*; and to contract to teach him the

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duty

duty of a *seaman*, during the like period of time; also to pay him the wages of a *seaman*; such *landman's* age being from *eighteen* to *twenty two* years, and no more. At the expiration of this time he might be left to his choice what life to pursue; but upon his master's giving him a certificate of his good behavior, he might be entitled, *for once only*, to a *bounty* of fifty shillings from the crown.

Fishermen are the next objects.

Notwithstanding our herring-fishery has labored under so many difficulties, and that many, who do not clearly understand this policy, are ready to lend a hand to crush it; yet we find the wisdom of the legislature still affords it protection; and surely it ought to be protected, not only as a mine from whence riches are drawn, which are otherwise hid in the abyss, but also as a *nursery* of seamen. The skilful management of this enterprize will lead us directly to the great object of this speculation; at least so far as it can furnish constant employment, which might soon be extended to the number of 1000 men and boys. If these were kept *always* at work, they would become *masters* of their business, which they can never be, in the present method of collecting fresh people every year.

WHEN the *Dutch* fishermen are not occupied in taking fish, they are making *nets, sails, cordage, casks*, and other things which relate to their business. Experience has taught *the States* such policy, that they have declined pressing any of these men, even in the hottest war, and in the greatest extremity. Nor is it any uncommon thing, with them, for tradesmen and mechanics to be employed at sea. It was this spirit which probably laid the foundation, and erected the mighty superstructure of that power which distinguished the *Hollanders*, for some ages. The case with
regard

regard to fish is obvious ; for they cannot live without it ; neither can we exist, as a state, without *naval power*. Whenever it pleases Divine Providence, that our maritime superiority shall cease, we may also fear that the same Providence has, at the same time, terminated the period of the glory of this land.

I AM sensible this will appear to some as an empty speculation ; and perhaps it may prove so : yet in order to set them in the same track of thought, and engage them to exert the powers of their invention, I must beg they will recollect, or suffer me to inform them, that there are parts in this very kingdom, where the very *ploughmen* make it a condition of their bargain with their masters, to be spared from the plough-tail for their *berring-fare*, and *shot-fare* ; viz. to fish, in the proper seasons, for herring and mackrel. Some masters allow of one, and some of both. And it must be acknowledged, that good fishermen will soon make good seamen.

AFTER all that can be said, I have no notion of any *one* remedy which will entirely cure a disease of so complicated a nature, as *pressing* men into the King's service. Perhaps no device can prevent this totally, and upon all occasions ; but if we can regulate *marines* at sea in a proper manner, upon the principles here advanced : if we can get into a method of reconciling seamen, when they are not wanted at sea, to get their bread as landmen : if we can establish such a confidence between them and their commanders, that ships may be no longer considered as prisons : if proper regulations take place (*a*), and

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strict

(*a*) Would it not be worth the pains in the sea-service, if the men were *obliged* to conform to certain rules, which their officers might prescribe to them. And *first*, I humbly apprehend, that ventilators, in bad weather, when there is no possibility of avoiding the bringing wet garments between decks, are not sufficient to purge off the noisome *effluvia* ; but this might be counteracted, by coarse napkins dipt in vinegar, and hung in proper places, on pegs driven into the beams ?

2dly,

strict discipline be supported ; the *necessity* for pressing will cease, except in times of great distress.

THE *pressing* for the land and sea service, has been established by law, for a short time, but the legislators have not thought of this method, on the present occasion ; and surely it is one of the most grievous calamities which a people, that pre-

2dly, As it is obvious that seamen are disposed to squander their money in debauchery, and, at the same time, no men delight more in being well clad ; and as their duty requires them to be tight in their clothing, they should be encouraged in this way. If we consider further, the liberality for which they are distinguished, they will not regard ten or fifteen shillings in their full clothing ; and, if it be good, it is not less impolitic to oblige him to wear an ordinary coat, who can afford to have a good one, than it is to adulterate our manufactures, or to stretch our kerseys till they are open as a sieve, which after being wet, draw up like a dry sponge.

3dly, Greater care is now taken of the slops than formerly ; but forasmuch as seamen are oftentimes grossly imposed upon by slopmen, and not less negligent of themselves ; might it not answer many excellent purposes, if in future times, the royal bounty, or a great part of it, were given to the men in clothing ?

4thly, I further ask, if crews were divided into classes, and every officer, according to the rate of the ship, had his class, if they would not emulate each other, whose class should be best clad ; and best provided with the necessary clothing, either for winter or summer cruizes, or cold or hot climates ?

5thly, If men, being kept more cleanly in their persons, will not be much the more healthy ?

6thly, *If the people of other nations are not generally more sickly than we are ; and if this does not arise from their being more dirty, as well as less robust ?*

7thly, If every common man had a havre-sack, and was obliged every week, or oftner, to produce his clothes, and every officer kept a roll of his class, if it would not answer ?

8thly, If the men were obliged to produce a clean shirt, and put it on every sabbath, would it not contribute to their health ?

9thly, If they were obliged, by a written order from the captain, under certain penalties, to mend their clothes when they are torn, so as never to be exposed to the least degree of nakedness, would it not contribute to their preservation ?

pretends to freedom, and really enjoy it, can possibly suffer, without renouncing the name, as well as the essence, of the thing they boast of most. But this evil, great as it is, will not be near so formidable as the want of seamen, whether it arises from the defect of regulations, or from any other cause.

THE importance of encreasing our number of seamen, is also demonstrable from the many foreign ships which use our ports in time of war. We have not yet so many seamen in the King's ships, as we had in the last war ; and yet we find 546 foreign ships arrived in the river *Thames*, from the 1st of *January*, 1757, to the 1st of *January*, 1758 ; whereas in time of peace, the number does not exceed 90 to 120. Peace will probably restore our navigation, so that it may run in its former channel ; but this will require time, and cannot be done without some difficulty. In the meanwhile, the *naval strength* of other states is augmented.

The breeding up boys to a sea-life (a)

Is of the highest importance, and the utmost care ought to be taken, that the public is not injured by the neglect of those laws, on which a great part of our natural strength depends. It is beyond all contradiction, that those who are bred to sea, in the earliest part of life, become the ablest mariners. By being inured to hardships, they can bear long voyages, winter-cruizes, and change of climate : whereas the landmen we are often obliged to employ
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(a) As a people whose chief strength is their *ships of war*, and whose opulence is derived from *commerce* ; to secure the very foundation stone on which our glory is built, we ought to be *careful*, and even *industrious*, in breeding up a *chosen race* of healthy, brave, and laborious *mariners*, both for the *King's*, and the *Merchants* service.

Letter from a Member of the Marine Society.

in time of war, not only heighten the expences of the navy; but also, by their frequent sickness, oblige ships to return into port, rendering them unable to perform the services required.

THIS must be the case, till men are habituated to a sea-life. Indeed, this has been constantly foreseen, and the *laws* (b) are calculated for breeding up

(b) Stat. 2 Ann. cap. 6. *Sec.* 1. It shall be lawful for two justices of peace, as also for mayors, aldermen, bailiffs, and other chief officers and magistrates, of any city or town corporate, and likewise for the churchwardens and overseers of the poor of the several parishes, with the approbation of such justices of peace, mayors, &c. to bind out any boys of the age of ten years or upwards, or who shall be chargeable, or whose parents are chargeable to the parish, or who shall beg for alms, to be apprentices to the sea-service to any of her majesty's subjects, masters, or owners of any Ship belonging to any port within *England, Wales, or Berwick*, untill such boys shall attain the age of 21 years, and the age of every such boy shall be mentioned in his indentures, taken from a copy of the register-book, wherein the time of his being baptized is entred, (where the same can be had) which copy shall be given and attested by the minister, or curate of such parish, without fee, and may be writ without stamp; and where no such entry can be found, such justices, mayors, &c. shall inform themselves of such boy's age, and insert the same in the indentures, and the age so inserted shall be taken to be his true age.

Sec. 2. The churchwardens and overseers of the parish from whence such boy shall be bound apprentice, shall pay to such master, at the time of his binding, 50 shillings, to provide clothing and bedding.

Sec. 3. The overseers of the poor of every township, or village, may execute the powers hereby directed.

Sec. 4. No such apprentice shall be impressed, or suffered to enter into Her Majesty's service, till he arrive at the age of 18 years.

Sec. 5. The churchwardens and overseers shall send the indentures to the collector of customs, residing at any port whereunto such masters of ships belong, who shall enter all indentures so sent, and make an indorsement of the registry thereof, without fee; and such collector, neglecting to enter such indentures, and endorfe the same, or making false entries, shall forfeit 5 l. for the use of the poor of the parish, from whence such boy was bound: and such collector shall transmit certificates to the admiralty,

up seamen from boys in the merchants, as well as the King's service. But I conceive that some improvements must be made in these laws, to render them

miralty, containing the names and ages of every such apprentice, and to what ship he belongs : and upon receipt of such certificates, protection shall be given for such apprentices, till they attain their ages of 18 years, without fee ; which certificates are not required to be writ upon stamp paper, &c.

Sec. 6. Every person to whom any poor parish-boy shall be put apprentice, according to 43 *Eliz. cap. 2.* may, with the approbation of two justices of peace of the county, dwelling in or near the parish where such poor boy was bound, or with the approbation of any mayor, alderman, bailiff, or other chief officer or magistrate of any city, borough, or town corporate, where such poor boy was bound by indenture, turn-over such poor boy apprentice to any master of such ship for the remaining time of his apprenticeship ; all which indentures of assignment are to be registered, and certificates thereof to be transmitted, by such collector of the ports where such parish-apprentices shall be so assigned over, in manner aforesaid ; and protections shall be given for such apprentices, till they attain their age of 18 years.

Sec. 7. All such poor boys, till they attain their ages of 18 years, shall be exempted from payment of 6 d. per month to *Greenwich hospital*.

Sec. 8. All masters or owners of ships, of 30 tons to 50 tons, shall be obliged to take one such apprentice, and one more for the next 50 tons, and one more for every hundred tons such ship shall exceed the burthen of one hundred tons ; and such master or owner refusing to take such apprentice, shall forfeit 10 l. for the use of the poor of the parish from whence such boy was bound.

Sec. 9. Every master or owner of such ship, after his arrival into port, and before he clears out, shall give an account under his hand, to the collector of such port to which he belongs, containing the names of such apprentices as are then in his service.

Sec. 10. Every such apprentice shall be sent to the port to which his master shall belong, by the churchwardens and overseers of the parish from whence such apprentice is bound, the charges to be provided as the charges for sending of vagrants.

Sec. 11. The counterpart of such indentures, shall be attested by the collector at the port, (where such apprentices shall be bound, or assigned over) and the constable, or other officer, who shall bring such apprentices, which constables, &c. shall transmit the counterpart of such indentures, to the churchwardens and overseers of the parishes from whence such apprentices shall be bound.

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them effectual. There are but few merchants, and much fewer masters of ships, when laws are become obsolete, and they are left totally to the guidance

Sec. 12. Two justices of peace, dwelling in or near the ports, and all mayors, aldermen, bailiffs, and other chief officers and magistrates of any city, borough, or town corporate, in or near adjoining to such port, to which such ship shall arrive, shall have power to enquire into and examine, hear and determine, all complaints of ill usage from the masters to such apprentices, and also of all such as shall voluntarily put themselves apprentices to the sea-service, as aforesaid, as in other cases between masters and apprentices.

Sec. 13. Every such collector shall keep a register, containing as well the number and burthen of such ships, together with the master's or owners names, as also the names of such apprentices in each ship belonging to their ports, and from what parishes such apprentices were sent, and shall transmit copies of such register to the quarter-sessions, or to such cities, boroughs, towns corporate, parishes or places, when required; for which copies no fees shall be taken. And such collector neglecting to transmit copies, shall forfeit 5 l. for the use of the poor of the parish from whence such boy was bound apprentice.

Sec. 14. Every customhouse-officer, at each of the ports, shall insert at the bottom of their coquets, the number of men and boys on board the ships, at their going out of every such port, describing the apprentices by their names, ages, and dates of their indentures, for which no fee shall be taken.

Sec. 15. Every person who shall voluntarily bind himself apprentice to any master or owner of a ship, shall not be impressed into Her majesty's sea-service during three years from the date of the indentures, which indentures are to be registered, and certificates thereof transmitted by such collector, at the port where such apprentices shall bind themselves, as aforesaid; upon receipt of which, protections shall be given for the said first three years of their apprenticeship, without fee.

Sec. 17. When parish-children, of the age of 18 years, and other voluntary apprentices, shall be impressed, or enter into Her Majesty's service, the masters of such apprentices shall be entitled to able seamens wages for such of their apprentices as shall, upon examination, be found qualified.

Sec. 18. All the penalties directed by this act shall, by warrant of any two justices of peace, be levied by distress and sale of goods.

Sec. 19. When any vacancies shall happen in Greenwich Hospital, the commissioners executing the office of Lord High Admiral, shall have power to nominate any disabled seamen, their wives and children, and the widows and children of seamen slain or drowned in sea service, to be provided for in the hospital.

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dance of their own will, who do not prefer their private convenience to the public welfare.

WE have found by long experience, that it is not sufficient to make *good laws*, unless there are *good men* to carry them into execution. If there is no exertion of coercive power to awe the delinquent, we can hardly expect men to perform a duty, which they either do not understand, or never think about.

THE creating *new* officers when *old* ones are already too numerous, is an encrease of evils; but yet *necessary duties* must be performed. The giving large appointments is thought, by some, to be *necessary*, in order to support the *grandeur* of a state, whether any thing is done for them or not. Be this as it may, if several tasks are imposed on the same man, it will divide his attention, and prevent his doing any thing as it ought to be done. Whatever the cause of the *neglect* may be, with respect to us, the *laws*, in relation to apprentices in merchant-ships, have not been regarded hardly, in any one branch

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Stat. 4 & 5 Ann. cap. 19. Sect. 10. *Every seaman who shall be turned over from one ship to another in Her majesty's service, or turned ashore as not fit for service, shall be paid his wages before such ship to which he shall be turned over go to sea, either in money or by a ticket, which shall intitle him or his assigns to payment within one month after the ticket shall be presented to the commissioners of the navy.*

Sect. 16. No master shall be obliged to take any apprentice under the age of 13 years, or who shall not appear to be fitly qualified, both as to health and strength of body, for that service; and any widow of the master of such ship, or the executor or administrator of such master, who shall have been obliged to take such parish-boys apprentice, shall have the same power of assigning over such apprentices to any other masters of ships who have not their compliment, as is given by the act 2 Ann. cap. 6. to such persons as have taken apprentices in pursuance of 43 Eliz. cap. 2.

Sect. 17. No persons of the age of 18 years, shall have any protection from Her Majesty's sea-service, who shall have been in any sea-service before the time they bound themselves apprentices.

of commerce, except the coal-trade. If proper persons were appointed to take cognizance of the laws already in force, or such as may be hereafter made, this evil would diminish very fast. If masters of merchant-ships, coasting-vessels, fishing boats, and even barges, were obliged, under the penalty of a considerable fine ; or if their ships were prevented from proceeding on their voyages, they would soon find, that there is no great hardship in taking a certain number of apprentices in proportion to their crew. This being done in the manner to be prescribed by law, and an account given of such apprentices to the collector, or customhouse-officer of the port or district to which such ship, vessel, or barge, belong, such collector or officer should be obliged to give a constant and regular account to the commissioners or inspectors, who might be appointed for this purpose. These last should attend the business, by personal appearance, on certain occasions, thro' the whole kingdom, in order to know the true state of things. They should keep registers of such apprentices through all His Majesty's dominions, and receive instructions from the lords of the admiralty, to whom they might be accountable.

If a plan of this sort were properly digested, and as properly carried into execution, it would be a sure means of breeding up a race of seamen ; and, in a great measure, prevent the calamitous effects of pressing. Nor would the merchant have any reason to complain of being put under such restrictions : For, besides the national benefit, which in this instance it is his duty to understand, the cost of navigating his ship would be very little increased on account of such apprentices, as the charge of *five apprentices* would hardly exceed that of *three men*. But suppose he could save only one hand in five, he might be a gainer. There have been merchant-ships belonging to this island, where even the master and mate, as well as the crew, were not yet out of their apprenticeships. And I have known a merchant make a great advantage by taking 20 or 30 apprentices ; and, to his honor be it recorded,

recorded, many of them were picked off the dunghill, as boys are now collected by the Marine Society, and being clothed and bound, not only by indentures, but by the stronger ties of gratitude, have proved much honefter men, as well as abler mariners, than most others.

If one confiders the great numbers of charity-schools and workhouses in these kingdoms, where children are taught and clothed, and sometimes fed by the public, (b) it is amazing how little return is made. Parents
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(b) It seems buft juft, that all *hospitals*, or *schools*, where boys are educated and clothed at the *public* expence, or by fubfcription, fhould be under a regulation with regard to the obligation of parents to fend fuch children to fea. If they are required, under the age of 14, before they are actually put out apprentice to any other trade, a certain number of them fhould be fend every year, which is a circumftance well worth *confideration*.

I have lately received a paper, which came from the hands of a very worthy knight, who is a zealous chriftian, as well as a warm patriot. His fcheme is for a fchool for the fons of feamen. It is a very right thing to teach feamen, and all other men, to fear God ; but it does not appear to be a confiftent meafure, to teach navigation to thofe who are intended for common feamen. At the fame time, perhaps, it might facilitate the improvement of our naval affairs, on feber principles, if a fchool were erected peculiarly devoted to the children of common feamen ; but I muft leave it to the speculation of the curious, in what manner to render it ferviceable. The propofal is as follows :

“ It is fubmitted to the confideration of the well-difpofed, whether it might not contribute to the
“ public welfare, if a charity-fchool was opened for the reception of the fons of feamen, to be there-
“ in educated, and from thence put forth apprentices to the fea-fervice. — This marine charity-
“ fchool might, with propriety, be committed to the care of a veteran-marine, well recommended for
“ ability as a teacher, and for virtue and religion as a chriftian. His bufinefs will be to teach the
“ children to read, write, and cypher : — to ground them in the principles of the chriftian religion :
“ — to impreff on their tender minds, the neceffity of frequent and devout prayer, both public and
“ private : — to forewarn them earneftly, and affectionately, of the ftrong temptations to vice, which
“ they muft expect to meet with in their future courfe of life : — to convince them of the neceffity of
“ the Grace of God, in order to their perfeverance in duty : and to their being fortified againft vice

are oftentimes extremely reluctant to the sending their children to sea. It is no uncommon thing for them to entertain very false prepossessions, in this respect, injurious to *common sense*. They do not consider, that these children are frequently more exposed to distress on shore, than they will be at sea. The governors, or guardians of such schools and workhouses, may easily correct such opinions; and we already find, that many of them are desirous of sending young persons to sea; the Marine Society have, at this time, offers of boys even from *Edinburgh*. The crown might thus avail itself of the strongest and best shaped boys, selected for this purpose, who would become the choicest seamen,

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“ in general, and against swearing and cursing in particular: to acquaint them by degrees with the technical terms of navigation, and with the various branches of their duty during their apprenticeships. — And to represent unto them strongly, the obligation they lie under, in point of loyalty to the King, of love to their country, of submission to their superiors, and of gratitude to their benefactors. Children thus prepared to undergo the honourable difficulties, and glorious hazards of the sea-faring life, would, most assuredly, be in a peculiar manner the children of Providence: and, in the nature of things they would, by their amiable deportment, recommend themselves to the favour and esteem of those, who may have it both in their will, and in their power, to befriend them.”

JOHN THOROLD.

Cranwell, Nov. 28. 1757.

If the proposal for taking children from charity-schools and work-houses, should take effect in a higher degree than is now in use, the object which this worthy gentleman recommends, will be acquired in a more extensive manner than can be well expected from the establishment of a marine-school, which we are not to suppose would be less *free* than any other: and if, as is computed, there are 100 charity-schools, besides workhouses, in *England*, it is to be presumed, there will be room to make a more proper choice than in a marine-school. We are apt to conclude, that he who can be of no use on shore will make a seaman, yet, if we consider we shall easily discover, that the most robust constitutions, and the best framed bodies, ought to be selected to be bred up mariners. It would be difficult to frame a law to regulate this matter; but every commander, either in the King's ships, or in the merchants service, ought, for his own sake, to be as little partial as possible to children who do not answer this character; for this would be the surest method to triumph over our enemies, in commercial navigation, as well as in war.

The proper care of these young persons

Is indeed an object of great moment ; and, considering how difficult the task is, it is much to be lamented, that an augmentation of wages to school-masters, in ships of war, is not made, that such kind of men may be provided as will effectually answer the purpose (d). I do not mean that navigation should be taught these boys, but that they be instructed in the duties of oeconomy : also how to show a proper regard to themselves, with respect to the *fear of God*, as well as the *duty of a seaman*.

It would be happy if some *regulations were made*, by which boys might be always kept tight and clean. The correcting them frequently, and in a proper manner, when they neglect themselves, is *one means* to obtain this end ; but if they were put under a particular inspection, both at sea, and in port, it is more than probable, the service would be greatly promoted by it.

If boys had also some distinguishing appellation, such as *King's-boys*, it might be a means to inspire them with higher and juster opinions in regard to themselves, than their education, and present situation, will permit : and it is evident, beyond all dispute, that the consequence of the neglect of themselves, is productive of mischief to the *King's service*.

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(d) In the King's service the want of a new *regulation* defeats many excellent purposes : the *academy at Portsmouth* has occasioned there being fewer school-masters in the King's ships than formerly, and these being paid only as midshipmen, men well qualified will not serve. Besides, this *academy* is only for *gentlemen*, and but a small number of these are educated there, the charge being extravagant.

But it is not so much the breeding up boys as *navigators*, we must think of them as *common seamen* ; and upon this principle *justice*, as well as *humanity*, call on us, not to discharge *lads* or *boys*, at the close of a war, without great caution.

Letter from a Member of the Marine Society.

IT is a great mistake to imagine, that the *royal navy*, especially in time of peace, can breed up a great number of mariners from boys. If we make a calculation upon 20,000 seamen, which perhaps is 5000 more than we shall support, the number of servants allowed, does not exceed 1500, and half of these, one may expect, will be the sons of reputable persons.

BUT in the merchants service we are to suppose 60,000 men are employed; and there might be at least *two* boys taken, for every *ten* men, which is 12,000; and these being replaced every five or six years, they become a great object of attention to the legislature. If we look forward to remoter consequences, so far from oppressing trade, by laying the merchant under an obligation, to breed up seamen, this being essential to the support of war, it is very plain his trade will, in the issue, depend on this rule of conduct.

WE see that it has been a constant maxim of Government, in this country, to encourage the breeding up seamen; and the common sense of the people leads them into the same track of thought: but all the proper means have not been yet employed. To this cause we must impute a great part of the encouragement shown to the Marine Society. When policy serves as a handmaid to charity, provided the first be honest, it ought to engage the additional attention of the pious, as well as the politic, since the love of the whole community being joined to a tender concern for the welfare of individuals, must strike more forcibly than a regard to the individual only. The great use which the Marine Society has been of, in this light, has been already explained in a very ample manner (*e*).

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(*e*) The Marine Society must appear of great utility, when it is considered that every 60 Gun Ship of 400 men, the *captain* and *officers* require 30 servants; this is the number allowed, and considered as *necessary* to the ship, as well as a *nursery* for Seamen. But it is proper to mention, that, except they are officers

THE discussion of this point leads me naturally to a very important article, relating to the boys who are fitted out by the Marine Society. It is

officers sons, no *Clerk of the Cheque* can muster a boy under the age of 13; and if he is stout of his years, clean limb'd, and robust in constitution, this may be considered as the best time of life to go to sea, when the *body* or *mind* may be formed to any thing. *Young Gentlemen*, as well as those who do the drudgery of a boy's office in a ship, are all included in this number, and under the common denomination of *servants*.

But it seems improper, *in time of war*, that more than *one third* of this number, if so many, including such young gentlemen and officers sons, should be of this *tender age*, not only because they cannot arrive to years, and strength, to be rated as *ordinary seamen*, hardly during a War of *four* or *five* years; but that they cannot create a *quick succession* of such young mariners. As soon as *Lads* become *able* to do the duty of *ordinary seamen*, and receive pay as such, there is room for others to take their place, but it is a long time before a boy of 13 is made a mariner, to receive wages for himself as such.

In order to encourage *Lads*, they ought always to be rated as *early* as possible; and if the Captain or Officer is sure of getting *another servant*, which by means of this Society they may easily do, the Captain will ever be ready to rate them, as soon as they can do the *duty of ordinary seamen*, which a stout *docile Lad* will soon learn. And these will supply the place of men, whom time and a vigorous prosecution of war, will probably take off. Hence it is very obvious, besides the immediate duty which a *stout Lad* is capable of doing, more than an *Urchin*, the *service* must be promoted by encouraging the former, to enter as *servants* on board His Majesty's ships, in time of war.

It is a great mistake that some people have fallen into, that the Society, which I am now recommending, does no service to the *boys*, but only to the *captains* and *officers*. The contrary must be obvious to common sense, when it is considered that the Boys having no more than 40 or 50 s. a year allowed them by their masters, 'till they *receive* wages for themselves as *ordinary seamen*, it ought not to be presumed that they will be paid the *less* for coming on board the ships with *bedding*, and *well clad*. If they were clothed immediately by their *masters*, they would have nothing due at the end of the year; whereas the boys are now completely fitted out, and receive their *pay* as a further encouragement. It is indeed to the *advantage* of an officer to be supplied with *servants*, because it often happens that he cannot procure such; or finds them only *one to-day*, and another *to-morrow*: and when he has no servants he loses their wages, which is considered by an *established regulation* as part of his *pay*.

This

is often asked, what is to become of these boys at the close of the war, as if the Society was bound in conscience, from the generous principles on which they act, that these boys should not suffer any harm? And indeed we may reasonably expect, though the Society, as such, has no power, either derived from riches or authority, to extend their concern so far, yet that these boys will become the greater objects of attention, on account of their being sent in this manner. Nor do I apprehend the difficulty, which is started, is so great as is generally imagined.

THE allowance for 60,000 seamen, is 4500 servants, according to the navy regulations : these are supposed to be boys, or lads upon the confines of manhood, not yet rated as *ordinary seamen*, to receive wages for themselves ; or
such

This *Navy regulation* is plainly calculated to encourage officers to breed up boys from those early stages of life ; for supposing a proper choice is made of them, as to their *make* and *constitution*, their going to sea early in life must render them the more accomplished seamen.

Here seems to be a *noble field* to exercise the *humanity* and *patriotism* of the Navy Commanders, who are charged with the care of these young persons. The good Officer will consider them as a tender parent does his own children ; whilst the school Master, or one who acts as such, initiates them into an early knowledge of what is proper for them : in the mean while the Captain sees them kept *tight* in their *clothing*, and *clean* in their persons, and properly treated by his *crew*. If there is any boy of uncommon *genius*, it is but justice to the *Community*, to give him fair opportunities of *improvement*, as is constantly practised in such cases by the *French*.

On the other hand, when *boys* are not regarded, they must become, with respect to a ship's company, what *lice* and *small vermin* are to a human body. And if they are of a very *tender age*, they cannot fail of being a *nuisance*, and generating *infection* and *disease*.

I cannot help observing, with sorrow, that many of the boys are stunted in their *growth* ; some appear with *shrivelled* countenances, as if they were born of parents, who had received no other nourishment than *gin* ; and if such had not been timely snatched from the jaws of this destroyer of the *British* nation, numbers of them must have perished.

Letter from a Member of the Marine Society.

such as are gentlemen's sons, of whom officers are made. In this calculation it must be considered, that some few commanders, in the navy, are men of fortune, and either cannot always get such servants as they like; or preferring to have a greater number of men, and a lesser number of boys in their crew, submit to the loss of the wages, of the servants they are deficient in; consequently, we may set the whole number at 4000. Of these there are, at least, 1000 who are the sons of lords and gentlemen, of officers in the service, or the children of merchants, tradesmen, or reputable people. There remains then only 3000. If 20,000 seamen should be retained in the service, 1200, or 1500, of these poor boys, may be retained as servants. The object to be considered is, what we are to do with the remainder? It is to be presumed, that out of the 3000 above mentioned, upon which this calculation is made, that 500 at least will be near the confines of manhood; will it not be a kind of *justice* in the government, to rate these as ordinary seamen? The time they will have already served, merely for their food and raiment; the knowledge of seamanship which they must have acquired; the regard due to them as subjects, who are in no ability to get their bread in any other way, added to the remembrance of the honest zeal of the Marine Society, will it be ever thought a measure *injurious* to the community, to shew these poor lads this indulgence?

So generous an example on the part of the government, would inspire *merchants* with the higher sentiments of policy, and humanity. There are many traders who are members of the Marine Society, and, it is to be presumed, there will be many more engaged, upon some good principle or other: a number of small ships will be fitted out, and some *apprentices* will be wanted; if the merchants *augment* the proportion of apprentices, they will only act agreeably to the laws of their country, to their duty as men, as christians, and as subjects. But it should be remembered, that when these boys leave the King's

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service,

service, to go apprentices to masters of merchant-ships, if their ages are not truly known, these should be estimated, and no lad should be obliged to serve longer than the age of 19 or 20; and, consequently, the time they have served in the Royal Navy, must be considered as part of the time of an ordinary apprenticeship. An office for regulating the indentures, might be established under the direction of merchants, or other proper persons, such as the government shall appoint, that the whole affair may be conducted with justice and humanity. Probably a small sum of money will be necessary to carry this scheme into execution, at least to equip the boys with clothing.

WE may safely calculate that the the herring fishery, which will yet prove a great source of wealth, if properly managed; the colliers, the coasting trade, the whale-fishery, as well as the merchants service in general, will take off a number of apprentices: but, unless the affair is put under a proper *direction*, I doubt if any *good* will come of this proposal.

IT is not to be conceived, but that several of the boys will desire to be left at their liberty to dispose of themselves; indeed I know not how there can be any compulsion used, though *persuasion* and encouragement will go a great way, and *necessity* still farther. It would not be a very difficult task to know the circumstances of every one, before they were suffered to come on shore; and as some of them would *prefer* to live on shore, others would give reasons for not binding themselves *apprentices*; but neither policy, nor humanity, will *permit* that any of them should be *turned* on shore to become *vagabonds*. Provisions are too scarce, and idleness too prevalent, to suffer that *a single subject* should be lost to the community, through want of care, or by any false notions of parsimony: nor can we, as a wise and vigilant people, act with any consistency, if we expose ourselves to the reproach of being idle, or foolish, in a matter of such vast moment, with regard to our duty to God, and to our country.

F I N I S.

L E T T E R V.
TO
ROBERT DINGLEY, Esq;
BEING
A PROPOSAL for the Relief and Employment
OF
FRIENDLESS GIRLS
AND
REPENTING PROSTITUTES.

By Mr. *HANWAY*.

L O N D O N: M.DCC.LVIII.

Sold by R. and J. DODSLEY in Pall Mall, by PAUL VAILLANT in the Strand,
JAMES WAUGH in Lombard Street, and the Pamphlet Shops.

LETTER

TO THE HONORABLE

I

L E T T E R V.

TO

ROBERT DINGLEY, Esq.

S I R,

IT is with great pleasure I see *revived** the subject which you recommended to me, soon after my arrival in England, in 1751. Whether it arose from a diffidence, that my pen was not equal to it, or that the undertaking was of too delicate a nature for me, I am more inclined to condemn myself for the omission, than to plead any ex-

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cuse.

* Whoever has long acted as a magistrate in this metropolis, must have observed, that the body of the neglected sons of the poor, gaming in public houses, and the very low bawdy houses are the constant fountains that furnish the courts of justice with offenders, and the place of execution with victims.

ENOUGH has been said of the former of these, and the evil being considerably lessened, the latter is proposed to be the subject of what follows; as it seems to be as material an object of the police as any whatever; for, in these brothels, the apprentice and journeyman first debauch their morals, and are soon taught to change their fidelity and integrity for fraud and felony; here the tradesman, overcome with liquor, is decoyed into a snare, injurious to his property, fatal to his constitution, destructive to his family, and which frequently puts a period to his peace of mind.

RE-

cause. It is true, a necessary attention to the duties of private life, joined to those of some public concerns, which I apprehended to be more practicable, left me very little time to enter into the merits of this cause, tho' I really had it much at heart. Those that most abound in riches and leisure,

RELIEVING industry in distress, preserving the deserted, and reforming the wicked and the penitent, are the acceptable employments, the favourite and advantageous delights of those minds, which are happy enough to have a good heart for their prompter. There is indeed abundant reason to believe, that these pleasures have been fully enjoyed by those who have subscribed towards cloathing friendless and deserted boys to go to sea. And it is to be hoped, that the public in general, as well as the particular objects of that charity, have reaped some advantages from those subscriptions.

AND I shall now beg leave to present to the public a body of fellow-creatures, equally distressed with those who have been the objects of the abovementioned benevolence; and which may, and will, I hope, be made of equal use to their country.

THE preservation of the common people, in all states, is highly deserving attention; for, from this fountain, your manufactures, fleets, armies, and domestic servants, are supplied: and in country villages this task is easy, as temptations to vice are more rare, and most parishes employ their inhabitants. But in such a populous city as is the metropolis of this kingdom, numbers of persons may be idle, numbers of children may be deserted who are capable of employment, without ever being perceived by the public, till their crimes have made them the unhappy objects of public justice.

For the truth of which assertion I refer to the Sessions-paper and kalendars for the years 1755, and 1756, when gangs of friendless boys, from 14 to 18 years of age, were transported, indeed, I may say by wholesale, for picking of pockets and pilfering from shops.

AND as these deserted boys were thieves from necessity, their sisters are whores from the same cause; and, having the same education with their wretched brothers, generally join the thief to the prostitute.

THIS brings me to that completely wretched, distempered, deserted, pitiable body of whom I mean to speak; whose sufferings have so often made my heart ach, and whose preservation I now so ardently wish to accomplish. And indeed I think, I have great reason to indulge these my wishes, as I flatter myself I have hit upon a plan that will as effectually preserve these deserted girls from infamy and distress, and make them happy in themselves and useful subjects at home, as that which has preserved so many of their brothers, and made them useful abroad.

BUT

leisure, ought to interest themselves most in it. But, whether fortune smiles or frowns; whether we are blest with ease and leisure, or harassed in the drudgery of the world, it may be expected that such a design will

BUT before I speak of my plan I will endeavour to shew from what fountain it is, our low and infamous bawdy-houses, which furnish our streets with thieving, distempered prostitutes, are supplied.

INFINITE are the numbers of chairmen, porters, labourers, and drunken mechanics in this town, whose families are generally too large to receive even maintenance, much less education from the labour of their parents; and the lives of their fathers being often shortened by their intemperance, a mother is left with many helpless children, to be supplied by her industry; whose resource for maintenance is either the wash-tub, green-stall, or barrow. What must then become of the daughters of such women, where poverty and illiterateness conspire to expose them to every temptation? and they often become prostitutes from necessity, even before their passions can have any share in their guilt.

AND as beauty is not the particular lot of the rich more than the poor, many of the abovementioned girls have often great advantages of person; and whoever will look amongst them will frequently see the sweetest features disguised by filth and dirt.

THESE are the girls that the bawds clean and cloathe for their wicked purposes. And this is done to such a degree, that on a search night when the constables have taken up near forty prostitutes, it has appeared on their examination that the major part of them have been of this kind, under the age of eighteen, many not more than twelve, and those, though so young, half eat up with the foul distemper.

WHO can say that one of these poor children had been prostitutes through viciousness? No. They are young, unprotected, and of the female sex; therefore become the prey of the bawd and debauchee.

HERE I cannot help mentioning a misfortune; nay, I may say, a cruelty, that often happens to these deserted children, and I believe the offenders as often go unpunished; for the maternal tenderness of their mothers is either starved by their necessities, or drowned in gin; and, for a trifle, they conceal and forgive an offence which our laws have made capital. And I have sometimes seen mothers, but indeed they ill deserve that name, who have trepanned their children into bawdy-houses, and shared with the bawd the gain of their own infant's prostitutions. And scarce a session passes without indictments being found against porters, and such low sort of men, for ravishing the infants of the poor. But, as I said before, I am afraid more of these offences are concealed from the magistrate than are brought to light. Who can behold this havock on youth and innocence, and not be shock'd with their pitiable case? and who can feel for them without being

will be soonest carried into execution, by those who are *rich* in *zeal*, and will exert their skill and industry.

FEW men have the welfare of their country more at heart than yourself; and few are better qualified to contrive the proper means of executing a plan of such importance. I hope it will please heaven to favor the design.

THERE are many well meaning people in the world, who cannot divest themselves of certain prejudices, which they are led into by mistaken notions of piety and policy, so as to become at length irreligious and inhuman. Whatever severities some private men may think necessary, according to the rules of what is commonly called prudence, those who
bestow

being warmed with a desire of affording them protection, and rescuing these helpless lambs from the hungry jaws of such ravenous wolves?

To preserve these objects, and to reform others, who having been decoyed into vice, and from the miseries they suffer, are desirous to withdraw from that dreadful state, is my principal view in what I shall hereafter propose; though I am persuaded, if I can succeed in the former, there will be at least fewer to repent; for evils of all kinds in public societies are only to be cured by being prevented: remove the cause, and the effect must cease. The skilful surgeon, indeed, when applied to too late, finds amputation of a limb absolutely necessary to preserve the whole body; which very limb might itself have been preserved, had the same skill been earlier applied: and *Venienti occurrere morbo*, is as good a maxim in politics as in physic.

THE only difficulty I see in putting this plan in execution, is, the first expence; for, I hope, in a very few years it will not only support itself, but prove a constant nursery for a body of useful domestics, much wanted in this town.

AND as the evil it proposes to remedy, is grown to a most obnoxious height, and the wretches that occasion it are the objects of universal compassion, I doubt not, but it will receive an encouragement proportionable to the public's opinion of its utility; nor do I fear, but that in these my endeavours, I shall be honoured with the kind attention, the friendly approbation, and the generous assistance of the ladies, whose tender feelings will give them a much juster idea of the sufferings of these poor creatures than any thing the warmest imagination can suggest; for really some of their cases, as *Shakespeare* says, beggar all description.

Introduction to Mr. Fielding's Plan for preserving deserted Girls.

bestow a moment's thought on the attributes of the Deity, must confess that his mercy is infinite, as well as his justice; and if it were not so, on what foundation could we build our hopes of future happiness?

INDEED, I do most heartily deplore the evil, and will readily contribute my mite towards the removal of it. In the mean while, I will plead the cause of the distressed, and endeavor to retain more able advocates.

THE recommendation of sobriety, with a view to preserve health and lengthen life, and to give our *seamen* ‡ a relish for domestic happiness, is closely connected with that condition, which gives the best security of our fidelity to the state, in war as well as in peace. The man who is rewarded for doing well, and punished for doing ill, will not *fight* the worse for having a wife and children. On the contrary, these are stronger motives to bravery; and if he, on the day of battle, thinks of any thing more than beating his enemy, it will be to *preserve his family*, to whom that enemy cannot mean any good. We have known two or three instances of men who pleaded the *love of their wives* in excuse for their *cowardice*: would not these have been cowards, had they been unmarried? And how many instances are there, of the best husbands proving the bravest men: of which we have lately seen one in a sea officer * who has greatly distinguished himself. He who is an honest man, will discharge the duties of his military capacity, as well as those of any other relation. And it has been generally observed, that as courage is one of the properties which women chiefly admire in men, so the most undaunted in time of danger have usually been most susceptible of tender passions.

TUELIC

‡ This alludes to the preceding letter.

* Capt. FORREST.

PUBLIC love and private felicity concur to one common end. But a luxurious effeminacy, and a temperance which becomes a soldier, are things as diametrically opposite, as cowardice and virtue; and there is no fear that those will fight the worse, who are not enslaved by their vicious habits.

The care of poor and friendless girls,

Such as have not yet been made a prey to debauchery; or such as are desirous to reform their disorderly manner of life, is an object worthy of the most serious attention. The kind of habitation necessary for their reception; the strict watchfulness which will be necessary; the regulations to be made; and the discipline to be observed, require more than a transient consideration. Every thing has a beginning: if we mean to render patriotism and virtue, national, and to interest heaven in our favor, we must enlarge our minds, according to the circumstances of persons and things.

It is one of the misfortunes under which we labor at present, that though there are many who will lend assistance to *cure* a disease, yet there are but few who endeavor to prevent it. The reason is plain; of the rich, the number of such as are idle and taught from their infancy to mispend time, vastly exceeds that of such persons, who, tho' free from all solicitude for the necessary appendages of life, are yet convinced that they were not sent here to trifle away their days in silly pomp, or vain amusements. What a voluminous book it would make, were every fact recorded, in which a timely relief of *ten pounds* would probably have saved a *hundred*, or perhaps a *thousand*; or where proper counsel and assistance, or the melodious words of true charity might have soothed a heart bursting with rage, or breaking with distress and sorrow.

WHEN the generality of the common people have worn off a sense of shame, and tho' able to work, are contented to eat the bread of idleness, we must expect to see numberless abuses of almost every kind of charity. In the mean while corruption and bad examples often turn panders to excess and luxury, and create wants, which otherwise would have no existence. But whilst we contemplate the evils which have made such inroads upon us, we must stand to our arms, and if possible, prevent their progress.

WE already complain of the want of inhabitants; and yet, I know not by what modern refinements, in which neither the laws of God, nor national policy have any share, we say, *the soldier should not marry, that he may be the more ready to go to war*; and barracks, which, without all doubt, are well calculated to establish discipline, and make good soldiers, it is to be feared, will hardly be productive of matrimony.

AGAIN, we say, *the sailor will be nothing but a sailor, and it will be in vain to encourage him to spend any part of his time on shore, in attending the care of a family*. But, what is yet more extraordinary, we add, as part of our domestic policy, *it is improper in the domestic to pretend to marry*: and for such offence he is generally turned out of service, as if he were an enemy to his country, and had forfeited the right of protection from the community.

As to the practice of a great part of the common people, in the country, they come together first, and if the woman proves with child, they are generally obliged, through custom or compulsion, to marry. In a partial and contracted view of things, this usage may appear not altogether

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impolitic; but it is a great scandal to us as believers in Christ, and wears off the impressions of the disgrace of illegal love. Even the *Marriage-Act*, which is extremely well calculated to reduce an undisciplined people to order, has, by a perversion of the design, in too many instances created an indifference to marriage amongst many of the common people. To this we may add the decline of a sense of religion amongst the vulgar; a want of country work-houses, where means of labor may be provided much better than in parishes; and lastly a pernicious example of the *excessive* love of *pleasure* and amusement.

To such causes as these it is, in some measure, owing that our streets swarm with prostitutes; and, as if the distinction between the *rational* animal, and the *brute*, were destroyed, and *Hymen's* sacred fire extinguished, such excesses are committed as are too shameful to recite.

IN the mean while, the immoderate use of *tea* and *spiritous liquors*, joined to the adulteration of bread and wine, with other such kinds of evils, have so far prevented the increase of inhabitants, that we shall probably feel a want, before the war is at an end.

WHAT then is to be done? Let notions of private convenience, or false maxims in politics, prevail ever so much; let men in higher life decline marrying, because women are extravagant; and let artificial wants be preferred to the order of nature, and to that simplicity of life which is the true source of human happiness: let the bulk of the people be as foolish, or as impious as they please; are those *who really think of their duty*, to look on, and see such crowds of females become the prey of penury, infamy and disease? Will no friendly hand be stretched forth, to succour those who implore assistance, and desire to be delivered out of their sad condition?

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But whilst we are shewing them compassion, we must take care not to bring them out of one kind of idleness into another, lest the remedy should be as bad as the disease. We find the laws * cannot restrain them, and punishing of them is to very little purpose, nor will the imposition of laborious tasks or any treatment devoid of humanity,

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* But these defects, in respect to gaming houses, bawdy houses, and disorderly houses, are provided for by a late act of parliament. By this law, if two inhabitants, who pay scot and bear lot, in the place where such gaming houses, &c. are kept, do give you notice in writing, signifying the name of the party who shall keep any such disorderly house, as aforesaid; you are forthwith to go with such inhabitants before a justice; and they are to make oath, that they do believe the contents of such notice true; and enter into a recognizance of twenty pounds each, to give, or procure material evidence against the keepers of such houses, at the next sessions. You are also required to enter into a recognizance of thirty pounds, to prosecute the law with effect; and all reasonable charges, being first settled by two justices of the peace, are to be paid you by the overseers of the parish where the offence was committed, upon penalty of their forfeiting double the sum. Your duty is herein enforced by a heavy penalty, which you will be therefore extremely careful not to incur.

It was generally hoped that the abovementioned act of parliament would put an effectual stop to, at least, the open and barefaced bawdy houses, as the process against them upon this statute, not only shortens the proceedings, but prevents that kind of chicanry, by which they had formerly eluded punishment, and also assigns a pecuniary reward of twenty pounds to enforce its execution. The consequence of this act was so much apprehended by the bawds of *Covent Garden*, that upon its commencement, and some little time after, they stopped their infamous practices. But unhappily the execution of this excellent law requires the information of two housekeepers, who pay scot, and bear lot in the parish where the offence is committed: and such is the dread and terror every man is under of incurring the odious name of *informer*, that few prosecutions have been commenced upon this act. This the bawds saw and availed themselves of it, by returning openly and publicly to their acts of prostitution; and one of them, with an impudence agreeable to her calling, advertised, that she was removed from the *Piazza Covent Garden* to *Bow-street*, where she also inscribed under her sign; and that street is now almost filled with the same infamous houses. Possibly this inveterate evil might be cured by vesting the magistrate with a power to act in respect to bawdy houses as by the statute 33 H. 8. he is empowered to do by gaming houses: namely, to search for and commit the offenders upon his own *certain view*: by this means the plea of want of information would be removed, and if, after this, these brothels, the nurseries of all manner of wickedness, should still exist, the blame would then justly rest upon the magistracy.

Mr. Welch's Office of Constable.

nity operate effectually to the great end in view, § we must find them employment, first for *their* benefit, that they may be the farther removed from temptation ; and next for our own sake that by their labor they may repay the husbandman and manufacturer for their food and raiment, and ease the community by supporting themselves by their industry.

It was last spring that I proposed to a zealous patriot and prelate, to think of the means of erecting a *manufactory for making carpets*, upon the principles of those of Turkey, for the employment of repenting prostitutes. What first suggested this thought, was an offer a great manufacturer

§ Little need be said to prove that these wretches, who are lurking at every corner of our streets, are an intolerable nuisance. Here I would be understood to mean those unhappy creatures, who having neither a house to shelter them, nor a protector to support them, are under a necessity of wandering up and down the streets to make a prey of the unwary apprentice and intoxicated husband. The bodies of these women are generally a complication of disorders, their language made up of dreadful execrations, and their behaviour infamous beyond comparison. These wretches, by their open prostitutions, make sin cheap. By these the apprentice is seduced to criminal converse ; which generally ends in pilfering from his master : detection follows, and if his master has the humanity to discharge him without prosecution, reputation being destroyed, it is odds but he associates himself with the wretch who seduced him, who rarely fails to put him upon a robbery to support her. These wretches cannot be said only to corrupt youth, but like a violent contagion precipitate the body into immediate destruction. Great numbers of these have been apprehended upon private searches who have been sent, some to bridewell to hard labor, others, too diseased for punishment, to hospitals ; little good, if any, has arisen from these ; for upon being discharged from one, and cured at the other, having no means of recommendation, or honest method of supporting themselves, necessity, united to a mind abandoned to debauchery, drives them to their former practices for support. Hard indeed is that duty whose tendency is useless severity ; and where punishment only prevents for the time it operates, but hardly ever produced one reformation ! I have often wished, with an aching heart, that there was among the noble charities, which distinguish this age in hospitals for almost every human calamity, one instituted by the legislature to receive and provide labor for these true objects of compassion, as well as detestation. Possibly the making the army clothes and linen might be introduced, whereby these unhappy fellow-creatures might be rescued from disease and misery, and instead of being a nuisance to the public, become useful to it, and prevent the ruin of thousands.

Mr. Welch's Remarks.

maker made to an hospital which I attend, to engage for this purpose such children as were turned of ten years of age. This proposal could not take effect; but it immediately occurred to my mind that if children of so tender an age could be of such service, women and girls, tho' unus'd to honest labor, might be easily taught how to work. And that this manufacture is of great consequence to us, is beyond all dispute.

I thought that if proper regulations were established, it would certainly answer; provided that in this *manufacture scheme*, *young* sinners be separated from *old ones*, and those who are in danger of going astray, be received, and distinguished from both. The successful conduct of the *Marine society* seemed to me to have at length *prepared* the way for taking care of friendless and abandoned *girls*, as well as boys; and that the former might be rendered as useful at home, as the latter are abroad. This induced me, about four months since, to consult a great carpet-manufacturer, in hopes of finding employment and a provision for these unhappy creatures; and he assures me, that this might easily be effected.

CARPETS may, perhaps, be esteemed an article of luxury; but they certainly contribute to ease and comfort, as well as elegance, and are at least as proper as a fine apartment, or any other rich furniture; not to mention the sums we pay for them to foreigners. But what is still of greater consequence, I apprehend they will soon become a considerable article of commerce, for exportation. Nothing that belongs to the furniture of a house, is of such consequence as this, to a *Persian*, an *Indian*, or a *Turk*; nor are Christians, of the foremost ranks in fortune and dignity, much behind them. We already greatly excel the eastern nations, in the color and pattern of this manufacture; as we easily may do soon in the quality and substance.

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THIS is an object which seems in a more especial manner to claim the attention of the SOCIETY FOR ENCOURAGING ARTS, MANUFACTURES, AND COMMERCE, to whose patronage I recommend it. They have something in their power, in their collective, as well as private capacity, and it may be presumed they will not have it less in their inclination, among so many useful things, to give the world a striking proof of their skill, and of their beneficence. Arts and commerce cannot but flourish under the influence of a society, which has already shewn so much zeal for the welfare of their country, in promoting industry and ingenuity, and consequently checking the growth of vice. But in this they will also demonstrate a nobleness and gallantry of spirit, heightened by the most exalted policy. By preventing the guilt and misery of prostitution, they will lend assistance to destroy one of the numerous causes of the decrease of the people, which must at length involve arts, manufactures, and commerce, in one common distress. Such a step will give us a specimen of what the golden age has been, if such an age there ever was, or, at least, what is most like that happy state which poets have described with so much art and beauty.

As I am now recommending the care of such crowds of wretched women, to the charity of the noble minded, I cannot help remarking, that if there was less idleness amongst the working female poor, there would be not only fewer prostitutes, and fewer beggars, but a most enormous expence in the poor's rate would likewise be saved. If the indulgence of feeding those who do not work, is a mark of tenderness, we may well say that England is the best country in the world for *women*. Great numbers of these, who are born to get their bread by labor, spend their days in idleness, beyond what is observed in any other country, to the
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disgrace of our politics, as well as injury to our morals. Therefore, there is the stronger reason on this occasion, to enter seriously into the consideration of this proposal.

IF these women were confined for a certain time, according to their different character and behaviour, it may be presumed that some of them would obtain the forgiveness of their parents and their friends, after a short time of repentance; and *proper precautions* being taken, such must of course be restored. In the mean while the most laborious or ingenious, should not be put upon a level with the lazy and indolent; one third, or an half of the produce of their labor, according to their gains, should be reserved to them, as their private property; that they might have the fairer prospect of returning with advantage into the world, and get a comfortable support, either in the married or single state. Thus, after a due time of probation, spent in piety and a habit of industry, in a healthy and spacious place, these women might wipe off the stains of their former impurity, and render themselves more amiable than many others of the common people.

IT is not to be imagined, but that great numbers of these converts would find good husbands. As the case now stands, we see that all men are not equally delicate, in this instance; some *rare geniuses* deviate from the beaten track. The agreeableness of many of these women, added to their ability to support themselves, might tie the bands of social affection stronger, than is usual in common life, where neither piety nor industry are in fashion.

BUT I would add yet something farther. As I have often been shock'd at the inhuman ambition of the *French court*, in sporting away the lives,
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and invading the properties of men; so, I must confess, I was struck with the good sense, the policy, and the humanity, which it shew'd, in a signal act of munificence, upon occasion of the birth of an heir to the crown; I mean the giving-in-marriage a certain number of poor girls with suitable portions.

WOULD not this nation acquire immortal honour, if the *directors* of this proposed charity, were intrusted with a fund, in order to give small dowrys to such of these poor girls and converted prostitutes as *excelled in virtue*?

THE learned *Erasmus*, and the ingenious *Baron Holberg*, who also distinguished himself extremely by his uncommon merit, thought this one of the *noblest* kinds of charity, and bequeathed certain sums of money to it. The latter also established a *fund* for that purpose, and without doubt, died with much the greater pleasure, in the reflection that he should be instrumental in making some young ladies happier, in that state, which it is no indignity to them to suppose most young women wish to be. *His* legacies were confined to the *most virtuous* part of the sex, and consequently to render them more happy than they were before. I am pleading for those *who once were lost and are found*, with a view to alleviate their *misery* and render them useful. And since *pleasure* chiefly consists in an absence of *pain*, and virtue is, in some degree, its own reward, it seems to be a higher object of the care of mankind, to relieve the distressed, than even to augment the happiness which *virtue* has so strong a title to.

IF the promise of *temporal* as well as *eternal* rewards, will raise a glorious emulation amongst the *most virtuous*; may we not hope also
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that it will be instrumental in reclaiming the *vicious*? Happiness is the common end pursued; and virtue and industry will point out, even to the most abandoned of mankind, what are the truest *means* to acquire this *glorious end*.

We may lay it down as an invariable maxim, that whatever tends to promote a habit of industry, which, to all appearance, will produce as great an advantage to a state, as the pecuniary consideration which is given, to promote that industry, will in the issue, be highly beneficial. But, if to industry we add the means of *preserving life*; the improvement of *moral virtue*, and the exercise of religious duties, it is, in fact, only making use of a *few good things* of a *lesser value*, to acquire *more good things* of a *greater value*: and where care is taken to prevent abuses, this must be productive of the greatest benefit to a state.

PORTIONS being thus given to such *reclaimed prostitutes*, as excel most in piety, industry, and a submission to a *regular æconomy*, it would often prepare the way to their being married to very honest industrious men, suitable to them, such as the directors might entirely approve. The happy ends which would be obtained by such *premiums*, given to the most virtuous, are too obvious to need any farther illustration. For, if those, who have been a nuisance, become useful members to society, and the people grow more virtuous, the *ends* of *true policy* and *true charity*, are answered in the highest and most *proper* manner, and the *state* will be doubly repaid the *charge*. And, as there would be no great difficulty in contriving the means to obtain money for such an excellent purpose, I recommend it, as an object of importance, to the serious attention of every *good politician*, as well as *good man*.

THE design in general, as is the case of every important enterprize, requires mature deliberation: the difficulties that will attend it, I apprehend, are far from being unfurmountable. I am entirely persuaded there is *room* to lay the foundation of a *noble structure*; and the more arduous the work is, the more honor it will be to those who carry it into execution.

THE common objection, to a proposal of this nature, that let us do all we can, there will be *harlots* of many kinds, is not to the purpose. If this manner of reasoning were allowed, the *doors of mercy* would be shut up, or men must become angels, and stand in need of no such kinds of charity, as human misery now renders necessary. The inferior classes of prostitutes, who are in the first stages of iniquity, are real objects of pity: and those, who from loss of character, are totally cut off from every other means of support, deserve the most tender *commiseration*. These must either cease to *think*, or labor under the acutest anguish of *soul*, as well as *pain*, and *disease of body*. The more I think of their condition, the more the voice of heaven seems to plead their cause. And since severity has been found ineffectual, what ought we to do but try every gentle method that promises success?

IN the great cities of other countries, where common prostitutes are not so numerous as in this metropolis, nor by far so impudent, more care is taken, and more humanity shown. Libertinism of this sort is not countenanced by our laws, as in *Holland, Italy, Venice*, and some other countries; nor do I apprehend the purity of the christian religion will by any means admit of such laws; but the evil, in its immediate effects, might
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perhaps be less injurious to the *state*, and even to many private persons, if it were tolerated by legal authority. Whether a breach of the commandments of God, in this respect, on the part of him who took advantage of the laws of men, would be so criminal as *perjury*, to which many laws do, in their own nature, *administer*, we must leave to *divines* and *casuists* to determine. If brothels were confined to a certain spot, many a *young* man, and some *old* ones, who now wander out of the paths of virtue, might be restrained by a sense of *shame*. They would not be in danger, as they now constantly are, of being led astray by the force of temptation, or *importunity*. On the other hand the women would be better attended in sickness, and fewer perish by the venom of a foul disease, as too many do: for it is a known fact, that all of them are not admitted into hospitals, or not so speedily as their case requires.

LET those who are shock'd at any proposal of this kind, think *consistently*, and be also shock'd at the very thought of being careless spectators, whilst numbers are seeking their own destruction. Is it consistent with the wisdom of any nation, to neglect the means of promoting virtue, and checking vice? But where humanity is so *deeply* concerned, is not the *omission* aggravated into a *crime*; and does it not call loud for *redress*?

WE are now invited to think very *seriously* upon the present occasion. Those vices which are most dangerous to the community, are generally punished with the most severity; but the iniquity, now under consideration, is of such a nature, as to be more easily cured by *mercy* than by *justice*. Not to speak of the distresses of *men* who are seduced, and who deserve some pity; and of *whole families* whose circumstances are too often rendered such, as can hardly be *related*; what

numbers of *poor girls* have been lost to their *parents*, their *country*, and their *God*! What sorrow, mixed with indignation, must arise in a generous breast, at the sight of such numbers of young women *plying* in the streets, as abandoned *prostitutes*?

How extremely grating it is to hear, a woman addressed with no gentler salutation than *d—d b—h*; a language not very *civil*, even when applied to the vilest of women, and yet, I am sorry to say, not altogether unsuitable to the character of those, to whom it is usually given? * Who, that considers the *dignity* of that nature in which the son of God himself appeared, and views attentively the miserable condition of these wretches, can refrain from tears? To be like a *b—h*, or something worse, is dreadful indeed! and, for being so, to be consigned to everlasting perdition! — Here all language *ceases*; and all utterance *fails*!

To see women disguised with *liquor*, or *fighting* with each other, or the poorest sort covered with filth and rags, and yet waiting for their *prey*: these are things so monstrous as hardly to be conceived; nor are they known in any other country. There is a certain elegance or delicacy even in vice, as well as in virtue, though indeed it is rendered the more dangerous to some persons on that account.—And how often do we hear those tongues, which the God of nature designed should soften the distresses of human life, and give a relish to its joys, uttering the greatest indecencies, and the most dreadful imprecations?—*Immodesty* herself is confounded, and *Impudence* hides her face!

THESE are *truths* which cannot be denied; but it is also true, that there are many poor girls who *lament* their sad condition, and would gladly

* “A shameless woman shall be counted as a dog.”

gladly reform: many pour out their hearts in real, as well as some in dissembled sorrow. Have they not reason to complain of the want of charity with regard to themselves? Are they not real objects of christian compassion? How many are cut off from all hopes of mercy, except the *cruel mercy* of those who afford them a temporary relief, at the wretched price of accumulated guilt, and the most unworthy treatment? How many have been seduced by the promises of men, and suffer all the miseries of poverty, infamy, and contempt, in consequence of a mean and perfidious violation of those promises, in the guilt of which the female has properly no share?

Who can behold the image of God, debased even *below* the vilest animal; and not wish to see it restored? *Brutes* follow the dictates of nature, and are obedient to their appetites; but appetite has frequently no share in the promiscuous commerce of these unhappy women? What misery can exceed that of persons who act perpetually in opposition to the plainest dictates of reason, and are plunged into a kind of necessity of pursuing a course of life, the end of which they know is perdition. To languish in a loathsome disease, surrounded with misery, in a more loathsome brothel; to be thrown into a goal, or persecuted by those very persons who should afford them the means of *repenting*; however shocking such circumstances may appear, they give but a faint idea of the sufferings of many of these wretched women.

If we consider these young persons as born in a *free* country, where *pure* religion is professed; many of them educated in the principles of *virtue*; *all* of them entitled to the *protection* of men, and designed by the wise author of nature as their partners in the social joys of life: and

turn the glass, and behold them the *slaves* of an abandoned procurer's fold, both body and soul, for *half a crown*;—it is indeed most deplorable!—What aggravates the evil is, that these poor wretches, when once fallen into the snare, can hardly extricate themselves whilst their health or beauty lasts. When they are become indebted to *B—ds* and *Tally-men* which is generally the case, nothing less than a generous lover can deliver them from the present distress, and even defer for a short time the fatal hour of total ruin.

If there is joy in heaven at the conversion of *one sinner* that repenteth, there ought to be joy on earth also. How shall we answer it to God if we continue longer to afford no opportunities of conversion to such objects of pity? It is a great mistake, to imagine that those whom we are now recommending, are lost beyond redemption. There is a *native* ingenuousness in the female mind; and *virtue* will charm as well as *vice*. All who have been hurried into these excesses, are not deaf to the calls of conscience. Strength of passion, and strength of reason, often meet in the same person: and there have been instances of the worst sinners becoming the greatest saints.

WHAT judgment did the *Saviour of the world* pass on a *harlot*? What was the case of *Mary Magdalen*? Those who have erred most in this way, are frequently observed to have a peculiar mixture of such qualities as dispose the heart to repentance. And to shut the *doors of mercy* against them, can never be the way to obtain mercy for our own sins, whatever they may be: nor can we neglect the preservation of such persons without greatly injuring the *community*; considering what numbers there are in this deplorable situation.

As to motives derived from *piety*, I have known a man in *Portugal* marry an *abandon'd* prostitute, in hopes, by converting her, to atone for an *atrocious* crime. In *Rome, Venice, Lucca, Pisa*, and other places in *Italy*, they have their *convertite*, or convents designed to reclaim these transgressors. If our church has less *zeal*, it has more *true charity*; and in point of *policy*, I hope we shall never give place to *Italians*. Perhaps we are not in general so abandoned, with regard to this part of irreligious conduct, as those people are; and there is great reason to think that the sense of shame is stronger in the breasts of our women, even among the common sort, when we observe that the greater crime of *murder* has been too often committed, to conceal an *illegal amour*. And we find in the character of our ladies a higher sense of *honor*, and a truer notion of *duty* as grounded on religious principles, than are usually to be met with amongst the women of any other country, which I have known. But where shall we find such an *abandon'd race*, as that which infects the most public streets of *London*, where the number of prostitutes is so great in the evening, that we should doubt whether every woman we meet, is not of that stamp, were they not distinguished for the most part, by that sort of conduct which is totally devoid of *honor, decency* or *shame*.

If we consider the principles on which those act, who believe the doctrine of the Romish church, we must *commend* the *zeal* of those ladies, even of the first rank, who have condescended to serve in menial offices, those prostitutes who are become converts. This height of devotion however is not adapted to our church, or climate: it is also not suited to the *delicacy* of our ladies, nor is it at all necessary, to our present purpose, that it should; but yet we may flatter ourselves that the most sensible

fenfible, and the chafteft women amongst us, will fhew the moft commiferation, and pride themfelves moft in promoting the charity which I am now recommending. In the mean while *men* who are the *leaft*, as well as thofe who are the *moft* converfant with *harlots*, will find fufficient reason, upon the prefent occafion, to affift in this good work. Indeed it is a work which requires the trueft *gallantry* of fpirit; that *gallantry* which is really *brave* and *generous*, and productive of the folid *happinefs of others*, not the *fhort-lived gratification of their own unworthy wifhes*.

THUS have I given you my thoughts, with regard to the *pious motives* for eftablifhing this charity; and I will moft heartily contribute towards the carrying of it into execution. Thofe who intereft themfelves in it will compare notes, and deliberately contrive the means which will render it moft effectual. But I cannot too often inculcate this rule, that the *hands* of thefe women muft be employed as well as their *hearts*; for if *piety* is not duly fupported, it will lofe its ground, and will not be able to keep them within bounds. If they were inclofed within walls of brafs, *idlenefs* would corrupt them.

A PROJECT of this fort opens to our view a *vaf*t field for improvement. No fingle project which can be eafily compaffed at once, will provide for a quarter part of the neceffitous, in the way now propofed; therefore I wifh to fee you and your ingenious friends *begin* and teach us *fome rules* for the better conduct of fo delicate an affair. At the fame time I muft repeat it that I am fully perfuaded, great advantages will arife to the community, from the employment of girls in making of *carpets*. I apprehend no women are in fo great diftreff as the *common* prostitutes of the town: there-

therefore these ought to have the preference. It seems also necessary to reflect seriously, if there will be any occasion to admit of any *men* into a manufactory of this sort, except *the Fathers*, a *secretary* to keep the accounts, and the *master* manufacturer to direct the works: and it may be presumed that persons fit for such offices will be found.

SOME of these reflections were committed to writing many years since when you first mention'd the subject to me; therefore *you* have the *best title* to them. If they are worth *your* attention, and merit the regard of other thinking persons, *my end* is so far gained; and I gladly make use of this opportunity to assure you, that I am, with the most sincere esteem,

S I R,

Your most obedient

Humble Servant,

Strand, 18 Feb. 1758.

Jonas Hanway.

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April 7. 1758.

P O S T S C R I P T.

IN discoursing with my friends on the scheme of establishing an *azylum* for *repenting prostitutes*, reference is frequently made to what has been said on this subject by *several writers*, particularly within these *twelve months* past. As I have but little time to read, I know the less of what other people think ; and, for the same reason, what I write myself is the more genuine. To corroborate what I have already advanced, I present you with a letter, taken from the *Gentleman's Magazine* of *August last* : perhaps some of the thoughts contained in it, may furnish you with hints towards the forming a *complete plan* for carrying this good work into execution, with all possible advantage.

IN pursuing this speculation, it is thought absolutely necessary, to consider *repenting prostitutes* and *friendless girls*, as objects under very different circumstances : but the latter are not the less worthy of our commiseration ; and though they fall more within the cognizance of the laws already made, yet those laws have not been so executed as to prevent the calamitous effects of *ignorance*, *idleness* and *poverty*. I should therefore think the community under great obligations to such persons as will reach out a hand to the succor, particularly of such as are *orphans* ; and, by showing a good example, towards as many of them as can be *well* taken care of, compensate for the *imperfect* administration, or the *real defects* of the laws, in relation to these objects.

EVERY beneficent act of this kind, will deserve the highest commendation. If we can thus introduce some kind of *police*, though under a *private* management, we may in time awaken the attention of our fellow-subjects ; and if the laws already provided are, as I apprehend them to be, really insufficient, some amend-

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ments may be made to them, in order to our trying the experiment proposed, with all possible advantage. Poverty and distress will thus be so far alleviated, as to prevent any *necessity* of these girls becoming prostitutes : and however we may distinguish afterwards, the *same plan* will nearly answer both purposes.

MEN are naturally fond of their *first* thoughts, but we see in almost every *public institution*, that too much ingenuity cannot be employed in *planning* and adopting the most constitutional and practicable *methods*, to prevent abuses ; to avoid fruitless expences ; to promote the *great cause of humanity* ; and at length to open our minds, that we may be able to take in the greatest objects without difficulty. For this purpose I hope an *honorary* reward will be given, for the best plan for the establishment of a *charity house*, or *charity houses*, for *repenting prostitutes*. *Manufactures and Trade* are intimately concerned in the employment of a great number of people, and particularly of those who have been the most *idle* and wicked. No other *society* but that for the *encouragement of arts, manufactures, and commerce*, can give such *honorary* reward, and I hope they will countenance a proposal of this nature. Thus we may hope to see the attention of the *ingenious* called forth, whilst the *zeal* of those who delight to *think*, how the good of mankind may be promoted, is put in action : and we shall probably make considerable improvements on what has been already written on the subject.

THE letter from the August magazine in regard to *barlots* is as follows :

“ I have lately read *three* letters in a paper called the CITIZEN, that have made a deep impression upon my mind. Religion, humanity, and pity for the most miserable of all our distressed fellow-creatures, call upon the community in general, to consider the contents of those letters, with attention ; and I make no doubt but you will very readily lay the substance of them before your numerous and judicious readers. The design of the writer is to excite a spirit of charity towards repenting prostitutes, and a laudable resolution to provide an hospital for their reformation. He says, in his *first* letter, that coming home to his chambers, in the *Temple*, one night with a friend, from an evening walk in the park, they agreed to take the different sides of the way, and to count the unfortunate girls who presented themselves to their view, but to
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fix the character of prostitutes upon none but those who spoke first. In this march of observation, before they arrived at *Temple-Bar*, his friend's account amounted to 113, and his own to 84; his friend was on the *Temple* side of the *Strand*, and he was on the opposite side. They spent the evening together, and agreed, that not one of these prostitutes, but might have been a daily pleasure to their afflicted parents; that the care and expence of raising them, though not equal in all, yet considerable even to the least of them: that many pious visitors had embraced them in infancy, on their good parents account, often shed a tear over them, and as often recommended their future welfare to the care of providence. They likewise agreed, that many of them would gladly go to service, and recover their health and character, could they only get footing in a regular family; but, as the case now stands, the thing is impossible: the good or ill fame of the poor creature must come from the last place she lived in; and perhaps she has not been to service since her young master got her with child, and laid the foundation of all her misery.

THE consideration in the *second* letter, is how to provide a *remedy* for this increasing evil. In *Holland*, says the writer, they have houses, called *Sperville houses*, where these unfortunate women are placed, either by deputies of the state, or by the magistrates; there they are kept quite apart, even at meals; they work, and by that means more than support themselves. In a year or two their faces, by the natural change of inhabitants in that country, are forgotten as prostitutes; and when they have a mind to come out, the character they have obtained in that house of sobriety, frugality, and industry, is allowed to be a sufficient recommendation to any family. But there are often still happier circumstances attend this their seemingly unfortunate situation: once or twice a year they walk in a kind of gallery, and appear, as servants do at a statute fair, in the different counties of *England*. Sailors just landed, and who have neither time nor inclination for long courtship, often marry them; the *states* give their consent, and sometimes a small fortune; and many persons, from prostitutes, have been made *joyful mothers of children*.

THE sailor looks on his *flame* as a widow. In a year or two, if they chuse to stay, all ill-natured stories die : but supposing they should not, there are, many instances of men who have gloried in thus saving the unfortunate ; and I myself, says the writer, have heard an honest fellow say ; *let the man answer it to his conscience who made you dishonest : I have more pleasure in making you honest, than ever he had in making you otherwise.*

WHY such a scheme should not be set about, and brought to perfection in *England*, I cannot tell. It seems a most charitable age ; and it was but t'other day that I read in one of the papers of a new hospital for *ruptures*. Think how many parents, in an hour of kind relenting, might, by these means, find out their daughters again, which it would tire out the best diligence to do in this metropolis. Changing names and places of abode renders this impossible, and many a poor girl dies in an hospital, or a prison, at the very instant her friends are in search of her, and willing to bring her home.

IN the *third* letter the writer has very ingeniously introduced, a visionary plan by way of dream, with the regulations necessary for an hospital, such as he thinks would answer the end proposed. I really thought, says he, that I saw a building already erected, somewhat near the *Foundling Hospital* ; and, as soon as I entered, the pannels in the hall, or vestibula, appeared filled with the names of many kind benefactors. But as I should premise to you, that, to make the dream more real, on my knocking at the outer gate, the porter, like most porters at a gate, not coming immediately, I saw a group of females, ^{poor} not such whose language bespoke a real goodness of heart, for they call'd the house a nest of nasty, stinking, poison'd whores.

BUT, to go on, the *edifice* was what builders call an half H. The centre made a good chapel, and the wings were the lodging, and working rooms, of the several inhabitants. To make the reader still understand it better, the form was

was not very unlike the Foundling Hospital, only larger and more lofty. I took pains to enquire into the several particulars which related to so noble and true a charity. I found that the right wing was set apart for those who had been of inferior families, and low extraction ; whereas the left was kept for ladies, whose rank in life required privacy and a superior treatment.

THE right wing only was visible to strangers, and that very cautiously, to prevent those sneers and jokes which rude and illiterate people are too apt, in this country, to throw upon distress. They were not to be seen except at their hours of meals, as perpetual interruption would hinder the kind intent of being placed there, which was to be private and industrious, and to gain their subsistence, as well as to expel melancholly thoughts:

THERE seemed to me near 300 at different tables, with a kind of *matron* at the head of them, who, with her hammer commanded silence, while grace was said. —This gave me great pleasure. I found on enquiry there were also rewards and punishments among them, the better to preserve good order and government in the community.

THE house allowance was very plain, and intended as such to promote industry : for, whatever they earned by their needle, or otherwise, increased their way of living, and gave them better apparel. The servants of this wing were all women, and such as had never been unfortunate themselves, in order the better to prevent any bad conversation among them, which was punished very severely ; swearing an oath incurred nearly the same punishment.

I SAW them go to chapel, and likewise at their meals ; I saw them also at their work. I could conceive no little charity-children to be more obedient to their governesses or school-mistresses ; and I was told, that, though they had a right to go out when they pleased, not one had ever quitted the house, and that only one, in so many years, had been expelled for riot and drunkenness.

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THEY appeared at grates, like nuns in *Roman catholic* countries, and at every grate, or range of bars, there was a kind of centry-box, where a woman sat, and was relieved by others, to overhear what conversation passed, lest young fellows should come there to inflame the poor sufferer, as well as themselves, by any improper discourse.—This I thought a most masterly piece of care and good management. No books were permitted but of prayer and humiliation; and though they were allowed to sing at their work, they were only songs of virtue, unmixt with love or gallantry.

HAVING sufficiently examined the right wing of this *Samaritan* hospital, and found that every thing was extremely well conducted, I think I need not dwell on further particulars, of their daily food and manner of dress, than this, that their table, though very neatly served, was always of those meats the least hurtful and inflaming to their blood; their dress was an uniform, very plain, with a medal pending by a short ribband, on which was engraved the words, *sin no more*. On quitting the right wing I looked on the outside of the chapel with great pleasure, and said to myself, that when I come next I will pay a visit to you, not imagining that I was dreaming, but really thinking I could have gone next day.

I CROSS'D the quadrangle, which was well planted with shrubs and plants, wilderness fashion, and on knocking at the door of the left wing, was asked through a small wicket, *if I had a letter?* The question surprized me, not having had an item of that kind; but was soon informed, that, in pity to the miseries of the inhabitants, no body was permitted to see them without a letter from a governor, by whom I found there was a proper ceremony of examination, what the business I had with them was, whether I knew their families, and the like.—All this was certainly right, as they were, or had been, persons of rank in life:—But, while I was pondering on the necessity there was for this conduct, and laying a plan how to be admitted some other day, by making my address to a governor, I saw a large groupe of gentlemen entering at the street-gate; one of whom I instantly knew, and going up to him, and telling my story, he said, Well, it is luckily *committee-day*, and you shall enter with me.

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ON our entrance he shewed me into a very handsome parlour, adorned with the handy-work of the ladies who were, or had been, there.—The chairs, the settees, the screens, the paintings, all their own.—He then asked me what lady I chose to see, and she should be sent into that room with the matron, according to the custom of the house: I immediately answered Miss *W*——. She was, indeed, the only one I was desired to enquire after, and the only one I seemed to know.

In a few minutes they both entered, and on seeing me I thought she shed some tears, and I answered them with the same. I asked her how long she had been there?—She said, ever since the admittance of objects; and that, although she had had various offers of marriage, and also of being an attendant on ladies of fashion, yet she believed she should spend her days there, as the governors always gave them their choice.

THE reader now is to be informed, that this lady was the eldest daughter of a very considerable merchant, who married a young gentleman at *Oxford* while he was a *fellow* there;—it displeased the family of course, as he was a *minor*,—and indeed he died a *minor*, which confirmed the parents in the persecution of her. At his death many friends interceded to get her restored to favour again;—but in vain—tho' time, which discovers what reason cannot, declared the reason;—for the parents were *poor* and *proud*, and this was a handle, as it often is, to save the expence, at the price of this lady's happiness and peace of mind.

SHE was young and pretty, and left to the wide world—She now went first into *keeping*—was generously treated by her first gallant, who forgot to make that provision for her as she deserved, by his sudden death.—In hopes of finding a second equally good, she tried a second; was ill used by him, abandoned, left with a disease on her, and by forged debts of his contriving, in order to get rid of her, was thrown into a prison.

ON the erecting this hospital, she took the benefit of the act then in force, and embraced

embraced this retirement.—She said she had intirely forgotten the world, and *London* in particular, even though she saw the steeples of the churches from her window every morning — That all the day was spent in work, prayer, or innocent talk, but few books being allowed — That if providence had forgiven her, she freely forgave those who had injured her; and said, she thought her sufferings were a blessing, as without them she could never have obtained such a sweet retirement.—She was going on, as I thought, when the chapel bell rung, and she said there was no allowance, except in illness, to be absent; but that, if I would stay, she would come again. The bell continued ringing, as I thought, and it waked me; and what was this bell, but that of the *Temple* church tolling for a gentleman, who was to be buried there that evening! — I assure you I was very sorry to find it was a dream, but hope it may give an hint for some *noble-minded* christians to erect something of the kind, though in an inferior manner.”

Inner-Temple.

Q. Q.

THOUGH some part of the *plan*, contained in the above *Letter*, should appear to be a little *visionary*, yet the whole is certainly not a *dream*; but the result of good sense, supported by the truest charity and policy. By the help of *God*, and the *Legislature*, if the last should be absolutely necessary, I make not the least doubt, we shall soon give proof that great *good* may be done in support of a cause which ought to be held the most dear and sacred: and so far as I can discover, after the most diligent researches, this may be effected with very little, if any mixture of *evil*.

IT would be a dream indeed, to think of a *total* reformation of manners in this instance: yet were we to employ *preventive wisdom*, and trace the evil to its source, though the execution would be arduous, the attempt might not appear

appear altogether *romantic*. But to decline such part of this great design, as is practicable, and appears so upon the nearest view, will be equally *inhuman*, *irreligious*, and *impolitic*.

I HAVE already observed, that one and the same plan will nearly answer both purposes, of *preventing* and *curing* the evil. If we arrest the *progress* of those diseases in the body natural and politic, which rob the state of such numbers of subjects, and propagate *misery* and *desolation*, we shall so far prevent *anarchy* and *confusion*. And whatever is done will probably tend to brighten the prospect of a *future state*, and remove the dreadful view of an *hereafter*, to many, who, as the case now stands, had far better have not been born. Let the result of these speculations be what they may, if any thing is done, let us take care to place the poor *female orphan*, whose mind and person are yet free from impurity, at a distance from those who are corrupted. Let the *direction*, in both cases, be supported with the highest honor and the exactest vigilance, that we may not only preserve the *real* sanctity of the institution, but also keep such persons in awe, who think *that* only is *practicable* which suits with their conceptions; or *that unfit* to be done which clashes with their inclinations. And let us consider, whilst we *deliver some* from *slavery* and *poverty*, and free them from *disease* and *untimely death*, how we may *prevent others* from being sacrificed at the altars of pollution and misery. 'Tis thus we shall render the work most truly acceptable in the sight of *God*, and engage the attention of our fellow subjects.

I am Yours,

F

J. H.

